響（ひびき）

1

小説家になる方法

柳本光晴
MITSUHARU YANAMOTO

BIG COMICS SUPERIOR

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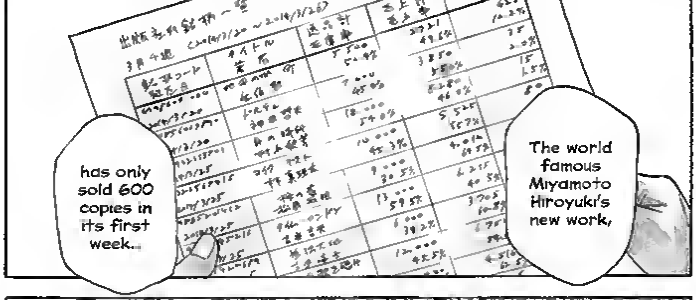

The world famous Miyamoto Hiroyuki's new work,
has only sold 600 copies in its first week...

That's not good..
That means
it's basically not selling
1: A day of going to school

And this is all that someone who won the Akutagawa prize can do
I mean, it's tough to even get an award nowadays.

they say that manga isn't selling well due to the publication recession,
but honestly,
it's a hundred times worse for us..

Even though we shouldn't be getting any worse,
it gets worse every year, on the dot
Haahh
Also,

What's going to happen to literature now...?

1: A day of going to school

Huh?
I think there's a chance..

For starters, literature has been falling out of favor even before the publication recession due to a loss of interest in books.
They're already saying that this trade has forever been in decline.

What's up, Hanai?

So maybe...
And people have already begun to stop reading as of late..
It's been continuously falling for nearly 20 years.

Don't you have a hunch that a star's going to appear?

A star..

You're right It's been years since one of our rookies sold 50 000 in their debut.

..thank you?

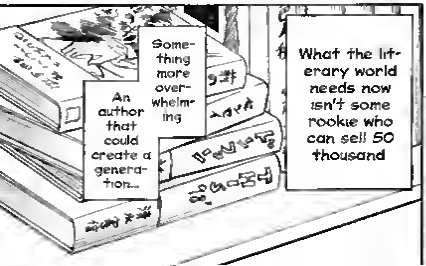
...your youthful way of thinking makes me envious, Hana!

Oh yeah a package I have no idea about arrived a while ago...

but I hope an author like that will show up at some point

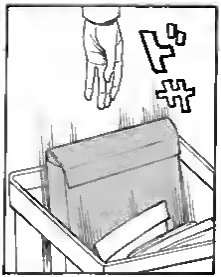
It won't be the second coming of Dazai,

...that's not what I mean.



Someone who can change the world

with the power of the novel...



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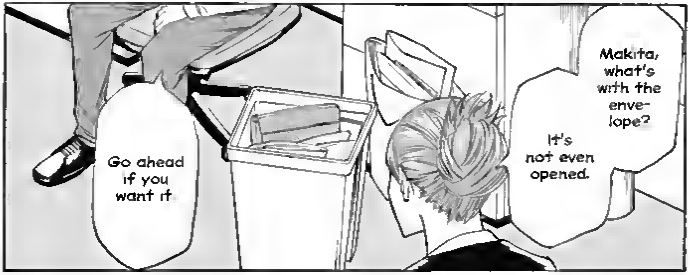
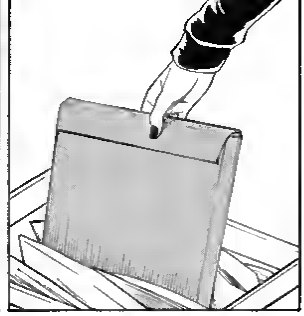
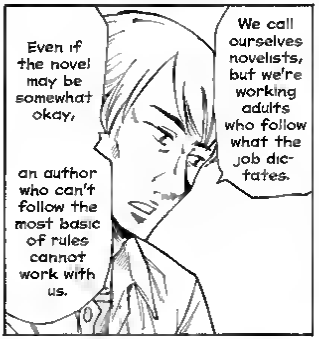
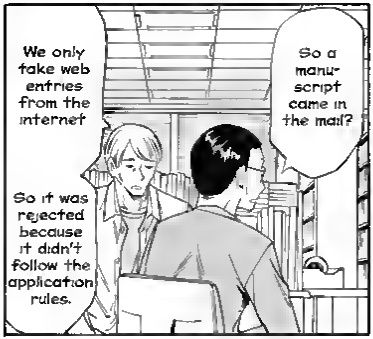
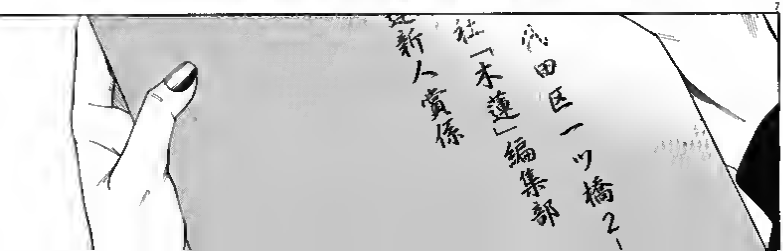


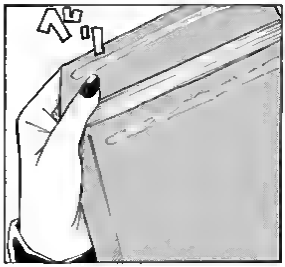
Is this... a manuscript?
For the newcomer award of the novel 'Mokuren'



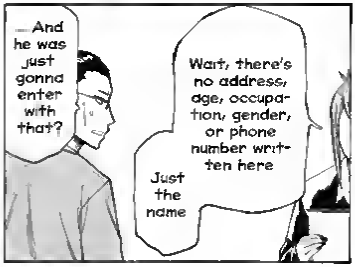

We call ourselves novelists, but we're working adults who follow what the job dictates.
Even if the novel may be somewhat okay,
an author who can't follow the most basic of rules cannot work with us.

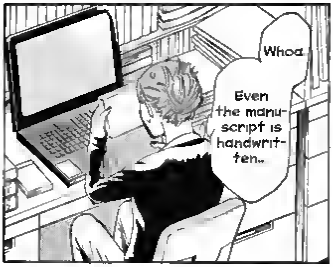

So a manuscript came in the mail?
We only take web entries from the internet
So it was rejected because it didn't follow the application rules.

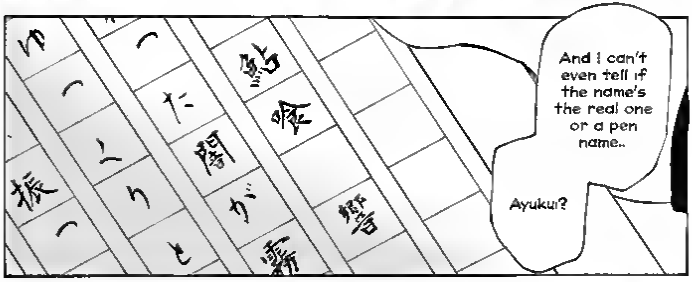

神田区一ツ橋2
社「木蓮」編集部
新人賞係

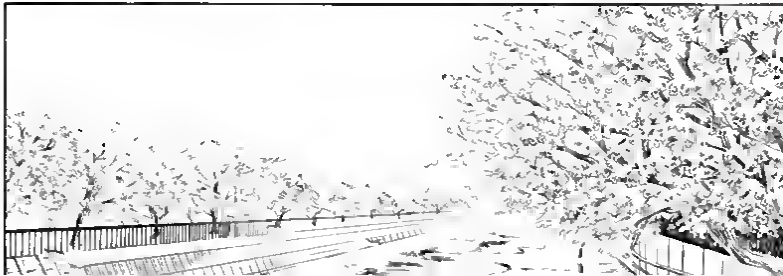


what beautiful hand-writing.


...And he was just gonna enter with that?
Wait, there's no address, age, occupation, gender, or phone number written here
Just the name


Whoa.
Even the manuscript is handwritten..

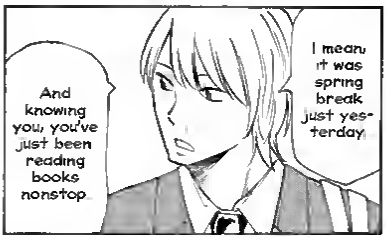

And I can't even tell if the name's the real one or a pen name..
Ayukui?



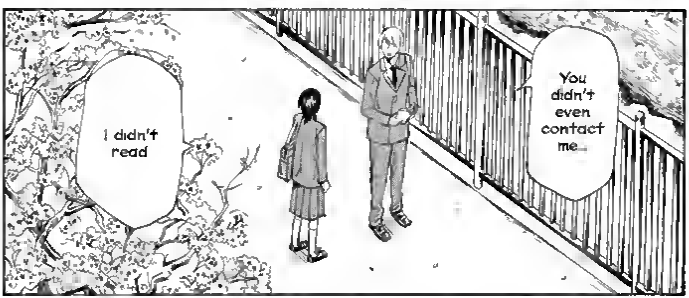
don't read a book while walking.

Ah.
ひょい

.....


I mean, it was spring break just yesterday.
And knowing you, you've just been reading books nonstop.

Give it back.
Don't read a book while walking.


You didn't even contact me...
I didn't read

10

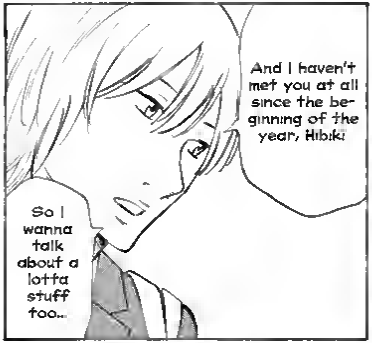
I had something to do...
So I pretty much have not read anything since the beginning of the year.

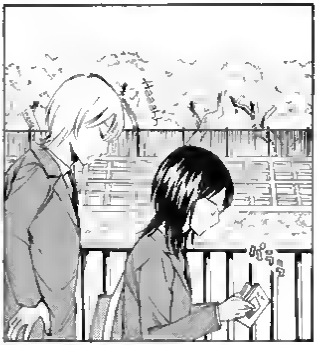
Huh?

Mgh
It has nothing to do with you, Ryoutarou
What did you do?
I'm reading now to make up for that time
Give it back
Hmm...
That's enough. Give it back.
Just kidding
Here, it's upside down

..don't read..

Give it back.

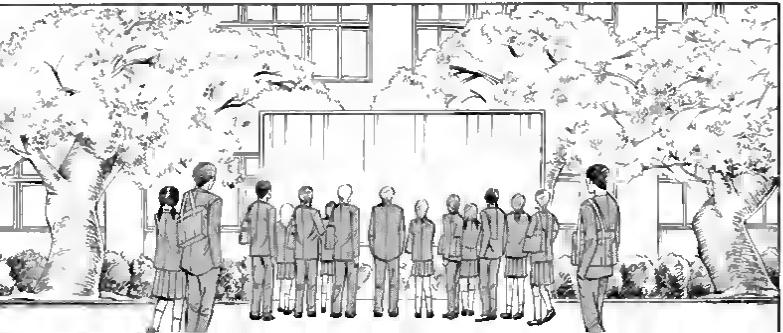

And I haven't met you at all since the beginning of the year, Hibiki
So I wanna talk about a lotta stuff too...



12

...damn-mit

And we're high schoolers starting today



We're in the same class, Hibiki.

Hoh

I didn't.

Oh

Did you sigh just there?

12

Looks like we have designated seats.

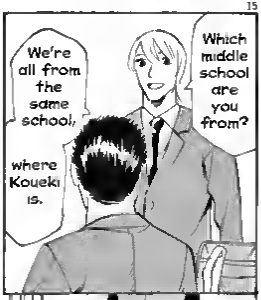
1-3

響～小説家になる方法～1

Hee eey
Sup

Hibiki,
get along with those around you.
Shut up
Don't act like my guardian.

Ahh, I know that one That's the school right near Koueki station.
Mine's near Sakoj station
Seriously? We went there for club matches before


Which middle school are you from?
We're all from the same school,
where Koueki is.

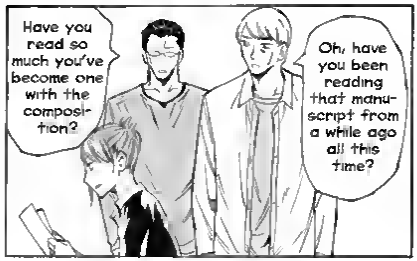
I know that place
Seriously? Me too me too.

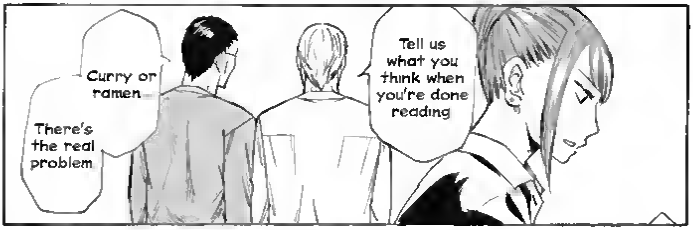
Ootsubo, you wanna go out for lunch?
Okay
I can take a break just about here

Whew
ギッ

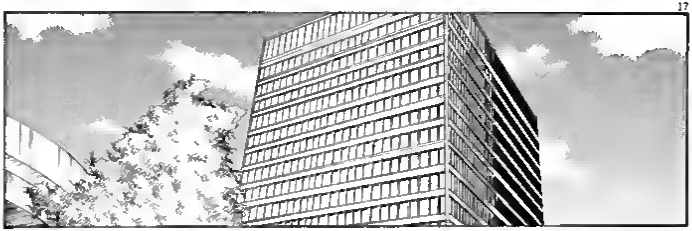
Hana, you want some lunch?
Hana?

響～小説家になる方法～1





17



Our Hokuseto high school is filled with club activities, and including the smaller associations, we have about near 50 clubs.

And finally, I'll explain the club activities.

Every club will be having an orientation after school today.

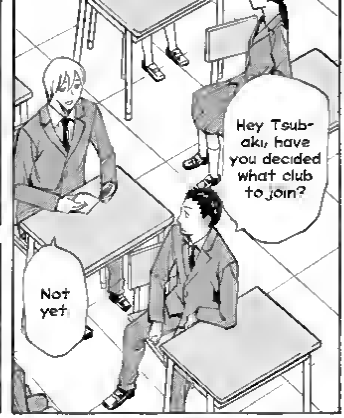
Please decide on which club you want to join by this month

That is all.

But everyone should be affiliated with some kind of club, as a general rule

Club...

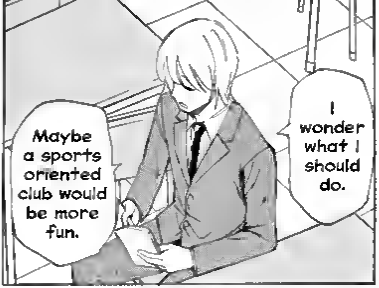
It seems fun and you have the height, Tsubaki, so you're definitely a fit.
So like, why don't you join the basketball club with us?


Hey Tsubaki, have you decided what club to join?
Not yet.

Ryoutarou
No, I'm...

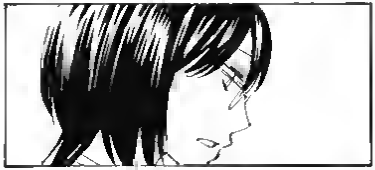
I'm joining the literature club.

I see.


I wonder what I should do.
Maybe a sports oriented club would be more fun.

So let's go in the basketball club.
Sure thing.
But I dunno if that's a club I'll be motivated for.

Uh……

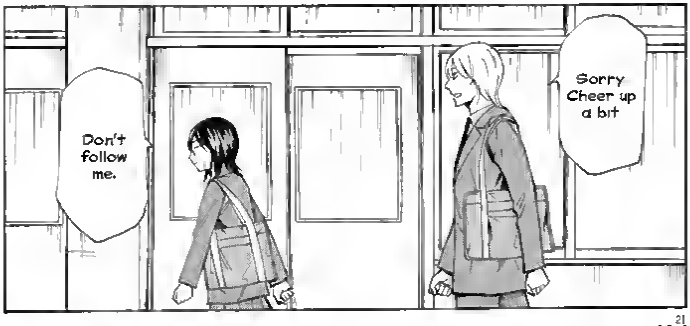


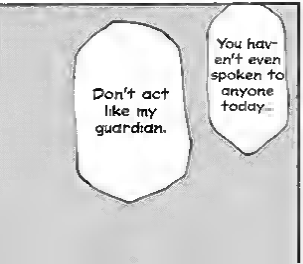
Wanna go into the same club together?

Hibiki!

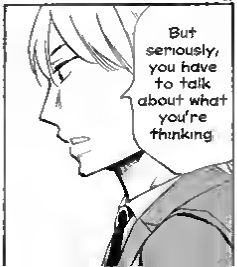
Hibiki!

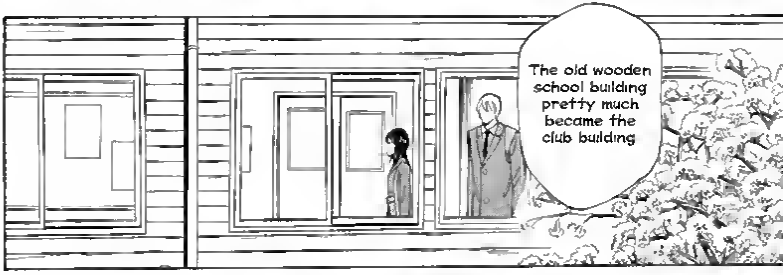
Wha
Sorry, I'm gonna join the literature club


Don't follow me.
Sorry Cheer up a bit


Don't act like my guardian.
You haven't even spoken to anyone today...

I can't read minds, and the same goes for other people


But seriously, you have to talk about what you're thinking

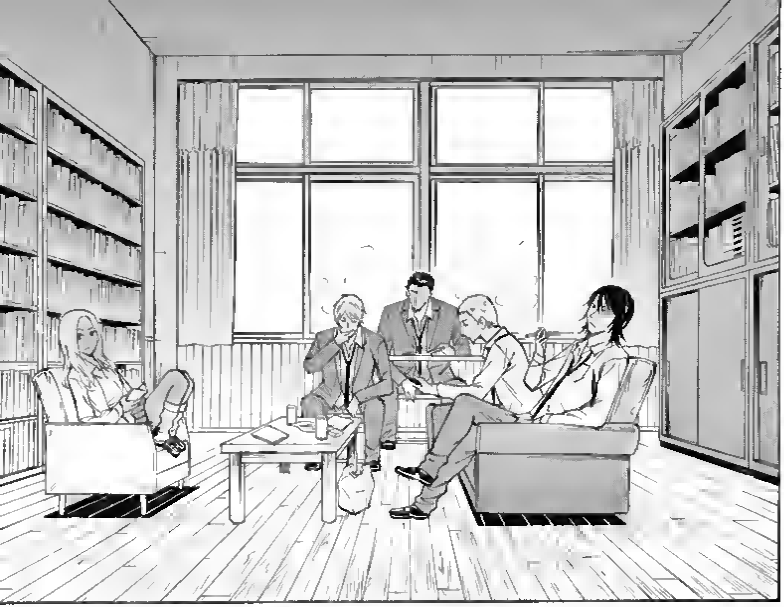

The old wooden school building pretty much became the club building

Don't care..

There wasn't a literature club in middle school,
so it'd be nice if you make some friends here

Excuse us.
ガラガラ

It's here
If someone has the same interest as Hibiki, maybe she can make some friends..



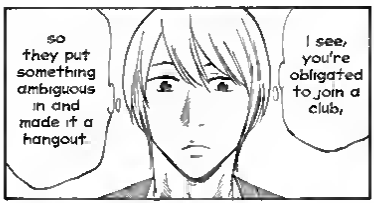
literature club
...the litera-ture club
Huh?

You guys first years?
Yes, we were hoping to apply here

An-other one's here
There's a lot of people who just like reading stuff in club

Now get out
Don't rat us out later

Sorry, we ain't recruiting new mem-bers here


I see, you're obligated to join a club,
so they put something ambiguous in and made it a hangout

24

Can't we do something about it?
Huuh?

so could we just observe and decide if we want to join later?

Well, we made some effort to come here,

Hmmm..

ふぅー

Well, how about it, Takaya?

Get out.
Don't make me say it again.

!
Hey, what're you doing...
Ah...

Don't make me say it again.
I want to join the club.

ビキ

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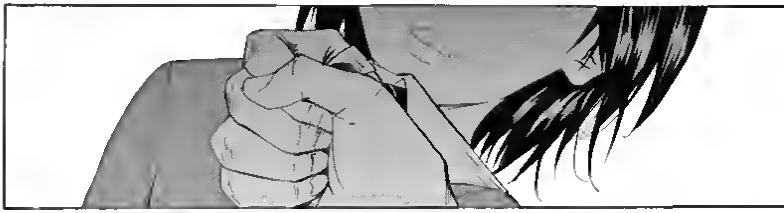
...are you looking down on me...?

Oh man.
Takaya's gonna snap.
...what's with the brat?

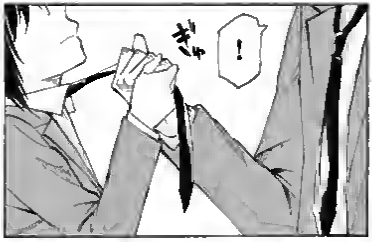
I'll kill you....

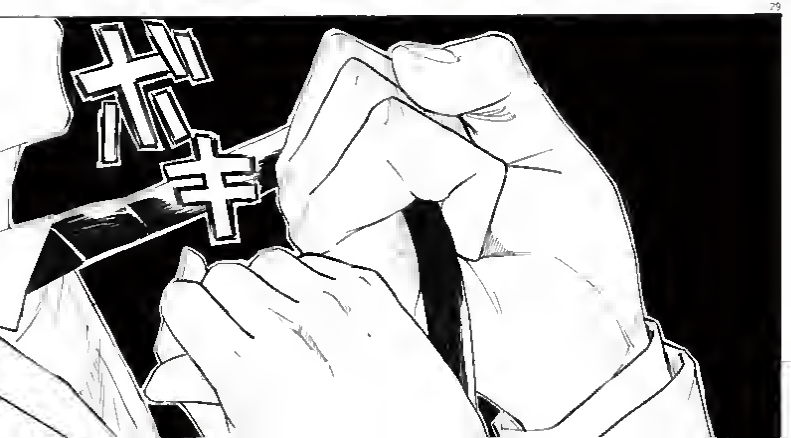


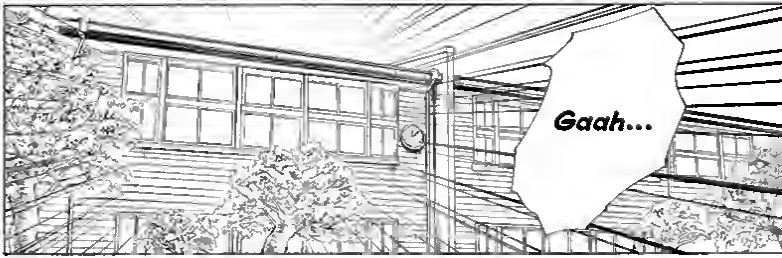
Huuh!?

Hey!

ぐっ


ぎゃ
！


ガキ

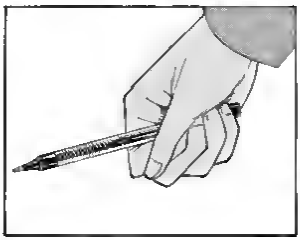

Gaah...

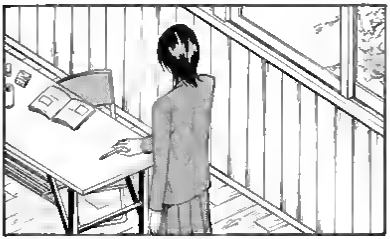
Wha...

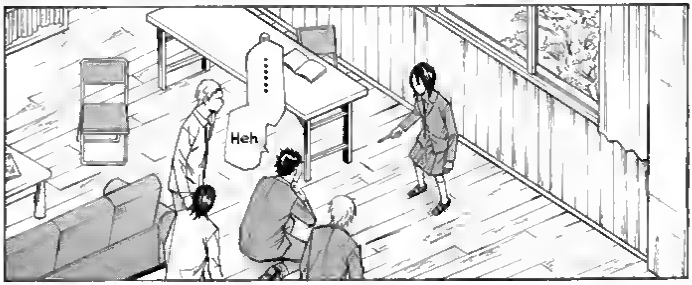
...why you
brat...

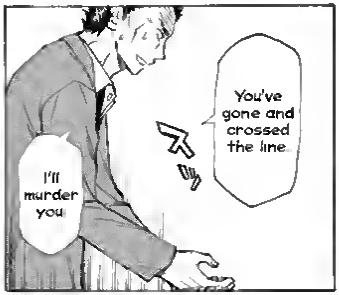
You okay, Taka-ya?
You're kidding, did it snap!?
.....?

響～小説家になる方法～1



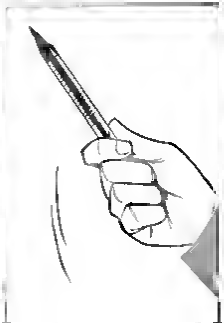



Heh.
.....


You've gone and crossed the line.
I'll murder you!

Now...
You planning on assaulting me?

.....
You think a glare will work?



じっ

She's not just assaulting me with a pen
or glaring at me

.....
Could she be..

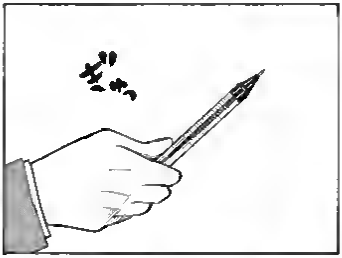
..Is she
aiming for my eyes..?

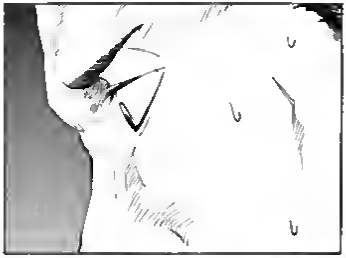
Hey..

スッ

Calm down, Takaya!

Bring it on dammit!!





Shit
Let's go to the hospital, that's more import-ant.
Look, Takaya, we can deal with her anytime!

.....
tsk

Huuh!?
Senpai.

.....

I'm very sorry!

We'll split the money evenly.

Let's just go to the hospital for now.

Anyways, just go to the hospital.

I'll definitely make Hibiki go to the hospital with the doctor's fee... more like the apology fee

We'll deal with the cigarettes.

I've remembered your name and face,

so don't think you can run away from me..

Tsubaki Ryoutarou

Hey, first year,

your name?

Where's the nearest hospital?

Wait, the taxi's first.

Tch..

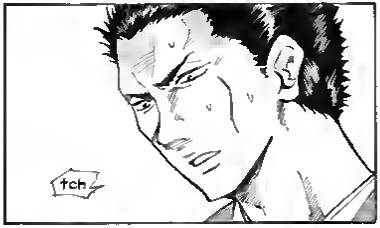
Sure

Huh?

Weren't you going to kill me?

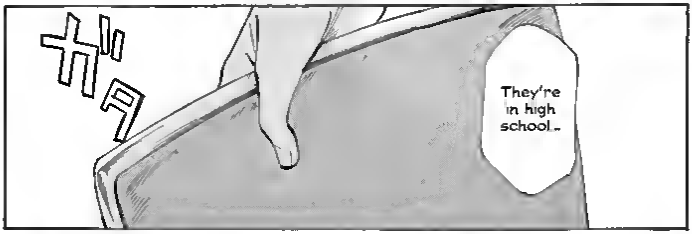
It's better to not get involved...

Calm down, Takaya.
That girl's just a little insane.

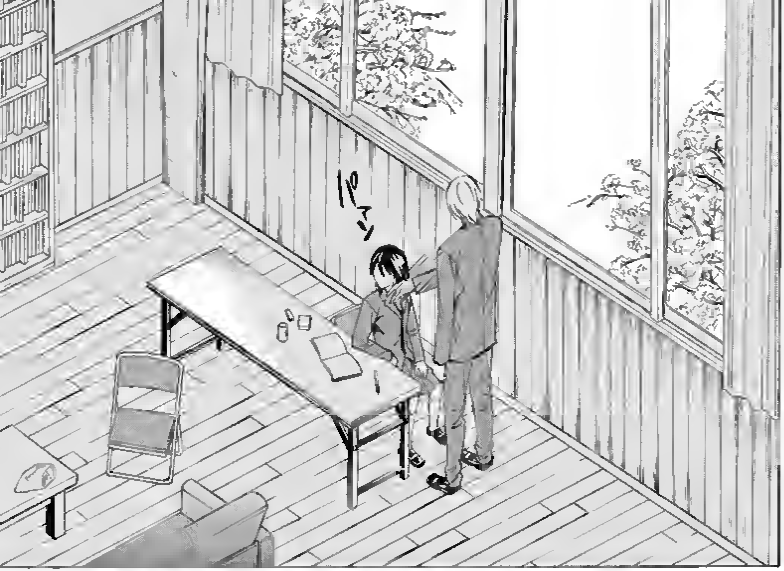

tch

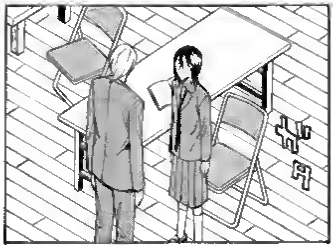
Go die by yourself.

what was with that force?


ガタ
They're in high school...

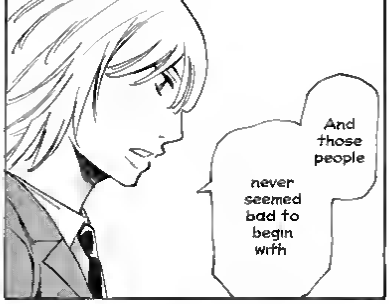
But they're all idiots!


パーン

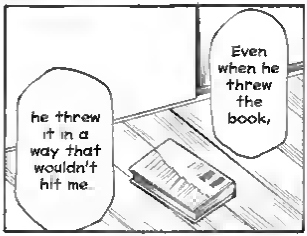

ガチャ

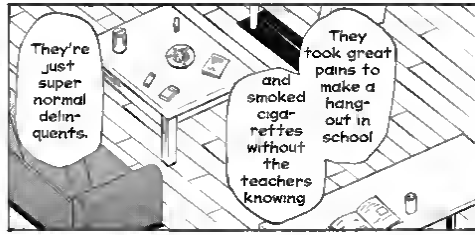
...what the hell are you thinking?

Gugh
ドス


And those people never seemed bad to begin with

There was no need to go that far.


Even when he threw the book,
he threw it in a way that wouldn't hit me.


They're just super normal delinquents.
They took great pains to make a hang-out in school
and smoked cigarettes without the teachers knowing

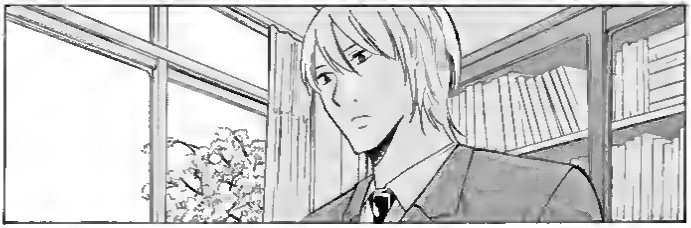
I'm telling you that they would have been understanding had you spoken up
They were the ones picking a fight.

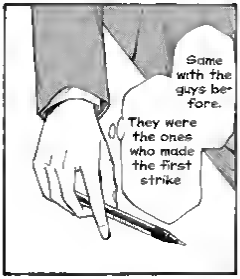
but you were just reading a book without talking to anybody.

...and this morning
was our first day of high school,

Don't act like my guardian!

Why're you--

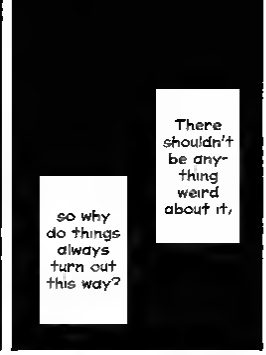


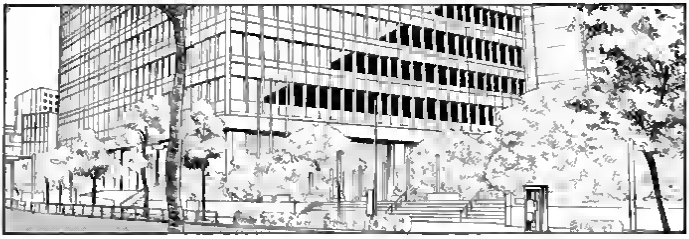

Same with the guys before.
They were the ones who made the first strike

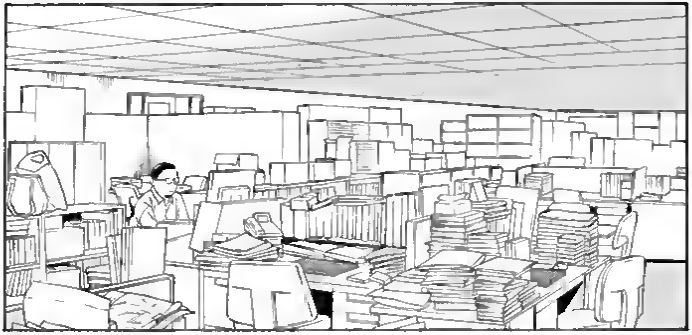
There's no point in talking to morons,
so I didn't try to talk to anyone in class

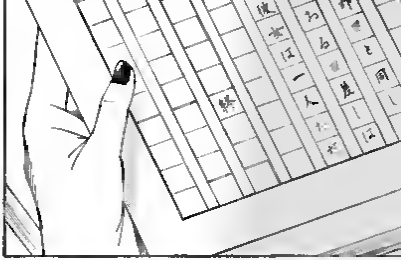
They said they were going to kill me
So I tried to kill them...

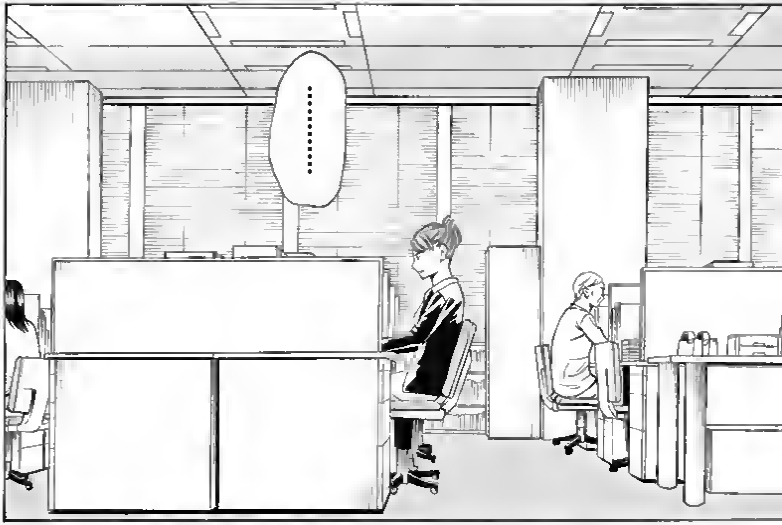
Why am I al-ways
alone ...?


There shouldn't be any-thing weird about it,
so why do things always turn out this way?





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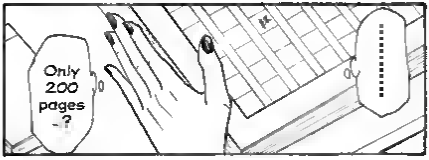
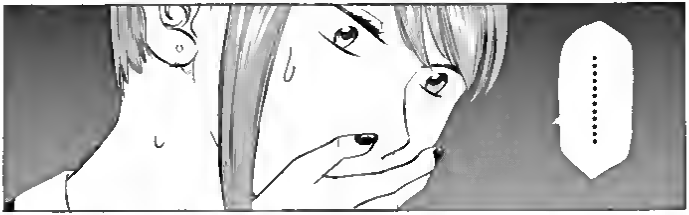

……
Only 200 pages…?

Even if there weren't revisions, this would be enough for a book…
This sucks…
And I can't even contact the author herself…

響～小説家になる方法～1

No, we have to have character data before that.
Oh yeah, the newcomer's award from before
But I believe the deadline is the day after tomorrow..
There has to be an author profile, or they can't accept it.

I can't publish this without a contract.
Wait!
That's a crime
I'm an idiot!
Or is it?


……

Go contact the print shop for now.
So we're done sending the cover submission, but the book itself might take until next week.

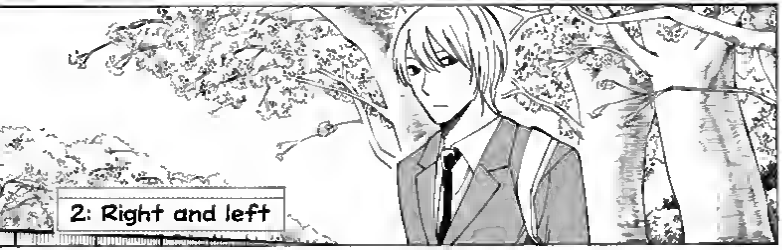
Ah..
So, Hanai, you done reading the submitted manuscript?

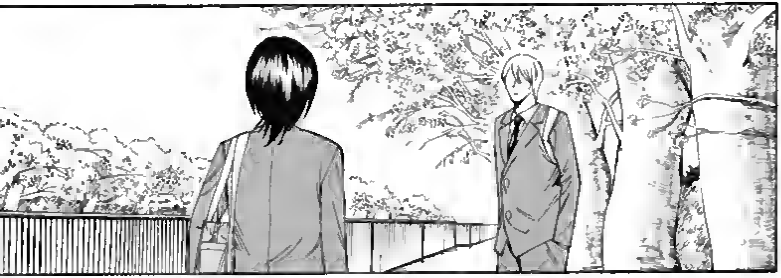
So, how was it? Could it be the second coming of Dazai?
Hmm.
Yeah..
.....

Yes...

May-be
I'm weird...

Ah...


2: Right and left



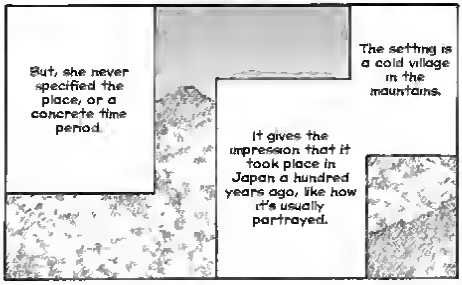
.....
yeah.

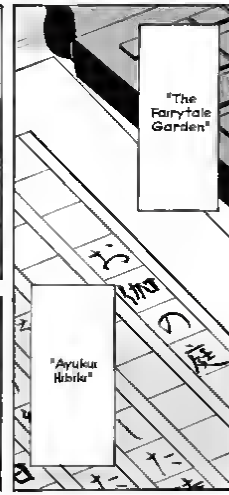
Morning.

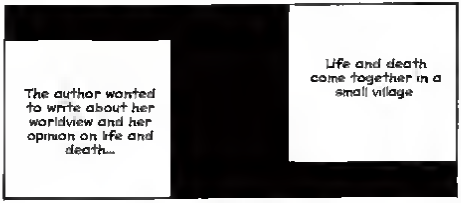
Morning.

Don't just say yeah.

2: Right and left

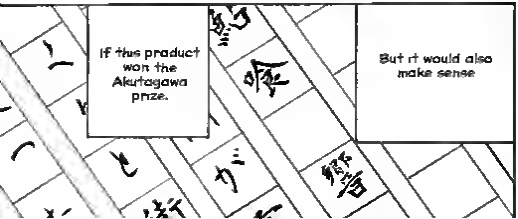

The setting is a cold village in the mountains.
It gives the impression that it took place in Japan a hundred years ago, like how it's usually portrayed.
But, she never specified the place, or a concrete time period.


"The Fairytale Garden"
"Ayukui Hibiki"

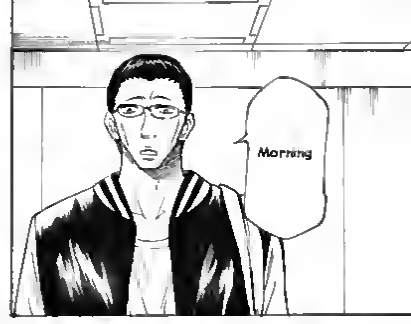

Life and death come together in a small village
The author wanted to write about her worldview and her opinion on life and death...

Wow, she has some literary prowess.
But it's really crude.
I think it would make sense if someone told me that this was a novel that the author just began to write

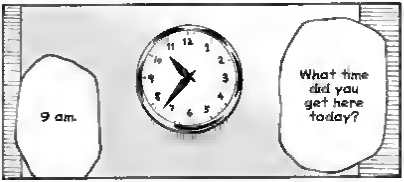
Hooh...

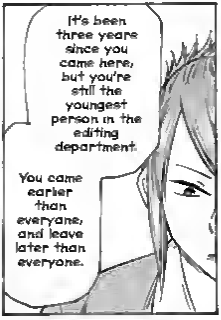

But it would also make sense
If this product won the Akutagawa prize.

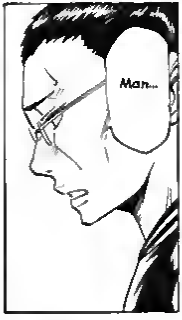
Good morning.
You're early as usual, Hanai.


Morning

---you're making me say it.
I'm picking on the young ones here.
Sorry, your excellence.

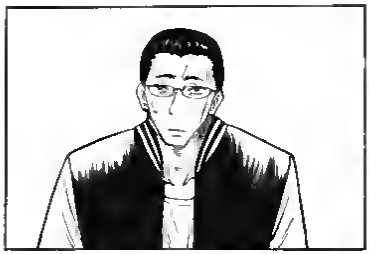

9 am.
What time did you get here today?

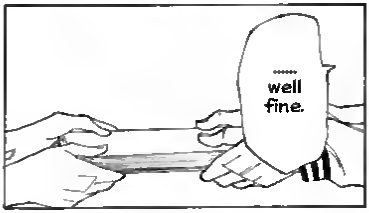

It's been three years since you came here, but you're still the youngest person in the editing department.
You come earlier than everyone, and leave later than everyone.


Man...

Ootsuba-san.
Man, young kids nowadays can seriously do their work.
I showed up late, and I was disrespectful to my senpai.
But I was less useful when I was your age, Hanai.

Could you read this manuscript?
The submitted manuscript from yesterday...
Yes.
Why?
You'll understand when you do.
We recruit for our newcomer prize only by internet submission.
Those who submit it manually will be rejected.
And on top of that, the author profile has been completely neglected.
There's nothing we can do, no matter how good it is.




.....
well fine.

You'll understand when you read it.

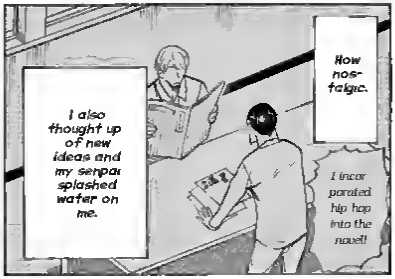
She knows her job and the number of matters she's been entrusted with has increased.
Her third year in the company.

This is the time when you can see diamonds in the rough.

Now she's beginning to think that she can do things herself

響～小説家になる方法～1

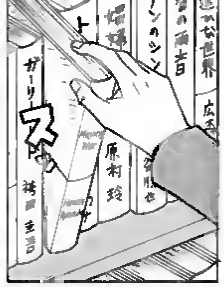
Looks like I can finally be the senpai here.


How nostalgic.
I incorporated hip hop into the novel!
I also thought up of new ideas and my senpai splashed water on me.

They really aren't coming huh.

The senpai here yesterday were probably using this place as a hangout
It looked like it became a bother, so they just dispersed...
We can't do anything about what's done
Now what're we gonna do?
Should we make a poster for new member recruit-ment...?
……
TEXAS
不良少年
ガーリーロード
Playing War
Hemada Ryosuke
トルコ石のブルー
娼婦レナ
原村玲
林原カナ
野々原千
野月薫

Hinki, what're you doing?



We can try searching for those guys from yesterday, but we don't know what class they're in.
Let's go to the staff room for a bit...

More importantly, we're just two newcomers and we don't have any idea about what to do.

Fixing?
Don't just fiddle around with it like that
Nothing much, just fixing it.

Hello there.

Hey heeey, thanks for yesterday.

Uh...

Ah.

Oh yeah, you were here yesterday...

Yeah.

They seemed fun, so I just kept quiet and let them do what they wanted

I should have intervened to stop them.

Those guys won't come anymore

Is that so...

Oh, you seem disappointed

Not disappointment...

I'm sorry

It looks like we chased them away...

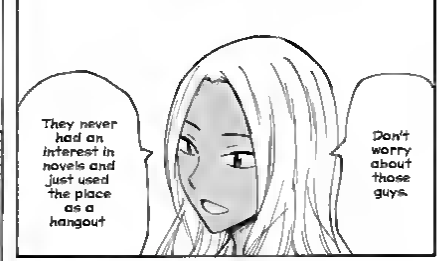
10

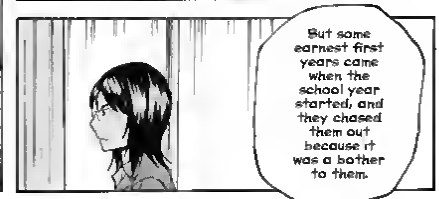
You're a good boy

You're Ryouta-kun, right?

I'm Tsubaki Ryoutarou.

It seemed like too much.
So I was thinking that was enough.
And you are...?

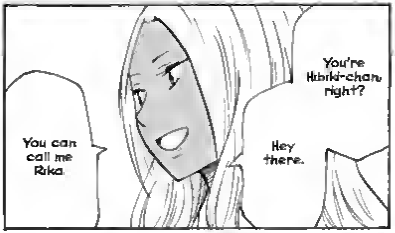

They never had an interest in novels and just used the place as a hangout
Don't worry about those guys.


But some earnest first years came when the school year started, and they chased them out because it was a bother to them.

Second year.
President of the Litera-ture club.
I'm Rika.

Well then.

Presi-dent...

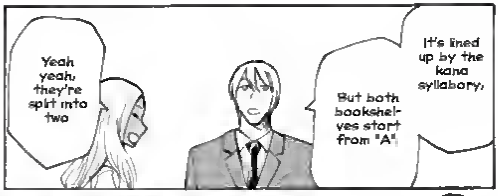

You're Hibiki-chan, right?
Hey there.
You can call me Rika.

You've been curious about the bookshelf for a while now, huh?
If you wanna read something, you're free to borrow it.

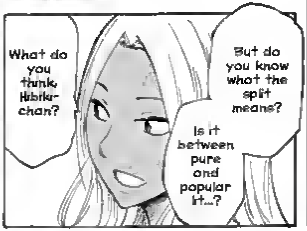
She says she's the president.
HMM
But she doesn't look like the kind of girl who'd read books a lot.

Or is there something else about the bookshelf that's on your mind?

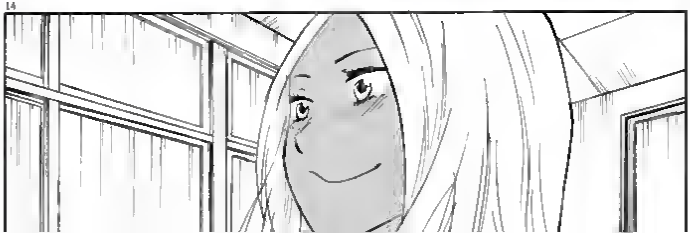
Were you the one who arranged this?
!
You figured it out?
The bookshelf?
Oh yeah, Hibiki's been curious about it for a while.
So you don't really know huh, Ryouta-kun.
Take a close look.

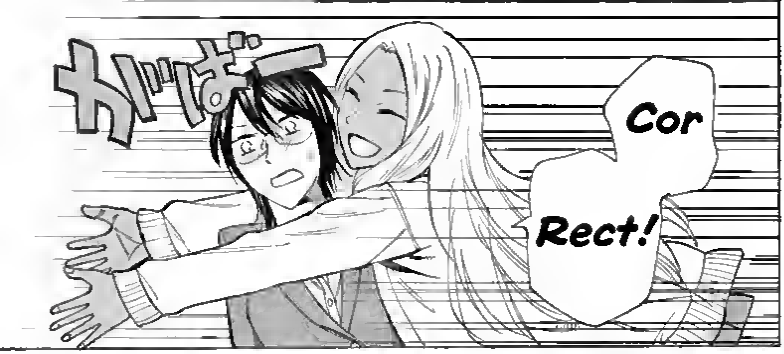

Yeah yeah, they're split into two
But both bookshelves start from "A".
It's lined up by the kana syllabary.

Ah...

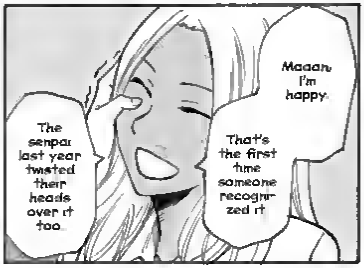

What do you think, Hibiki-chan?
But do you know what the split means?
Is it between pure and popular lit...?

The left side has shit.
The right side has the interesting books.




わッぱー
Cor
Rect!

じじじ
I didn't even know if Takaya and his friends could read.


Maaan, I'm happy.
That's the first time someone recognized it
The senpai last year twisted their heads over it too.

.....Rika-san, you've read everything in here?
Rika's fine
.....so senpai,
Well yeah.

But can't do much about the difference between interesting and boring books.
I won't go as far as calling them shit

If I think about it as having a small responsibility for this bookshelf,

There's no way I can allow anything to happen to it

But I inherited it from my then third year senpai lost year

They say that you can figure out what a person's like just from their bookshelf

I don't care about other people's bookshelves.

Actually, this girl

Thinks in similar ways to Hibiki...

I'm glad I have a compatriot

Hibiki-chan.

I see...

But I have no idea which books belong to the club

So I separated them for now

She really is a little weird since she likes literature...

Let's get along from here on.

There was a book in the wrong place.
So I fixed it
Hm?
Oh the book-shelf?
She was fiddling with it before.
HEART-B

戦争ごっこ
浜田涼介
1人対50億!
50万部
This author was actually a one hit wonder with "Playing War"
It was a big hit, but his gimmick was the novelty of his setting.
True, his writing came off immature.

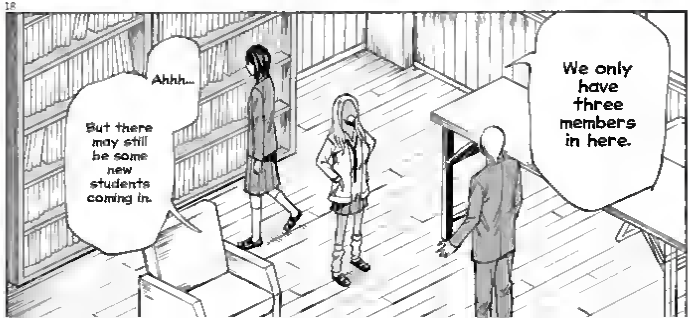
You put Hamada Ryousuke's "Playing War" in the "boring bookshelf" on the left.
I see.

It was one of the books that had meaning in the literary world
It's a low quality novel for sure,
But the story was interesting.

It was completely novel because of the drama in the work and the setting he created.
There's no philosophy behind it
But see,

A problem?
More importantly, we have a problem from here on out!

This is on the right side
Thanks for fixing it
But sorry


Ahhh...
But there may still be some new students coming in.
We only have three members in here.

There just aren't any students who read novels now.

Hmmmm, I wander
I was the only new member last year
And I heard there was zero the year before.

スト

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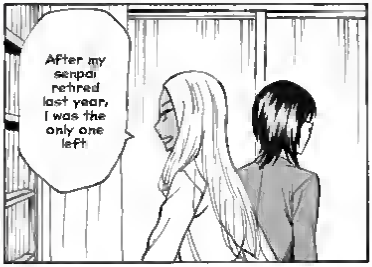
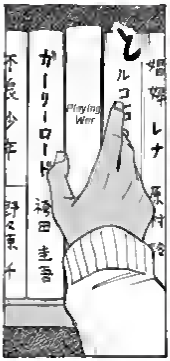
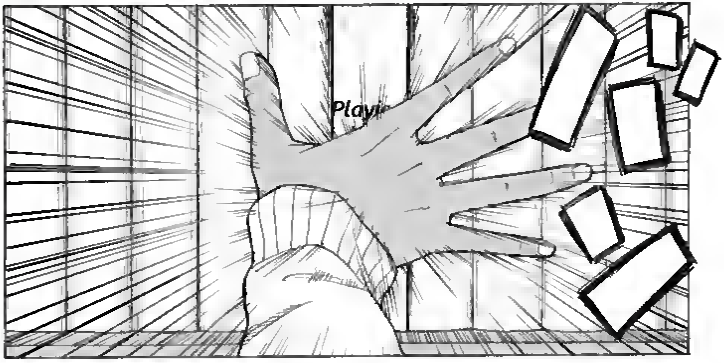

After my senpai retired last year, I was the only one left

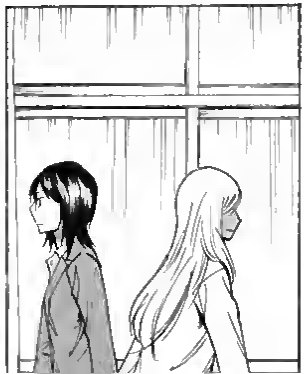
.....so in our school, you have to have 5 members or they wan't accept the club.


Playing War
ガーリーロード
不良少年

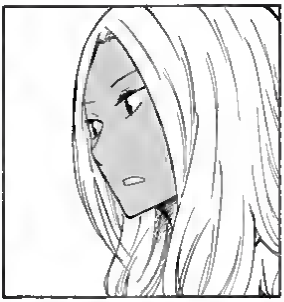
I was so sure that there weren't gonna be any new students this year,
so I decided to bring in Takuya and his gang

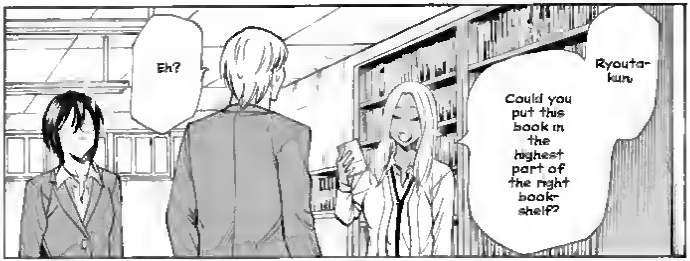


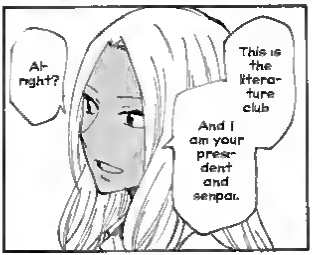
ガーリーロード
不良少年
TEXAS



響～小説家になる方法～1

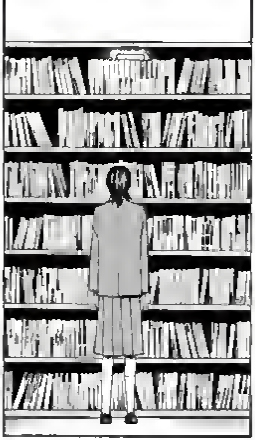



Eh?
Ryouta-kun
Could you put this book in the highest part of the right book-shelf?


Al-right?
This is the litera-ture club
And I am your presi-dent and senpai.

Uh...

...right.

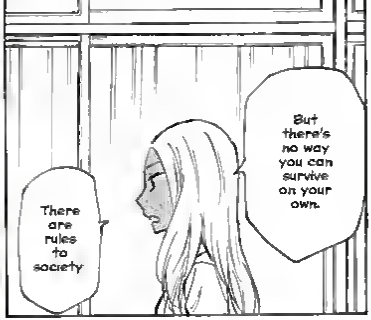


Hibiki-chan.

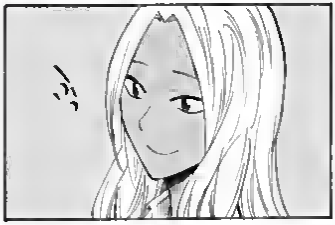
You stand true to your beliefs.
never yielding even one step of ground.

I think I have a good idea about what kind of person you are after yester-day's incident.

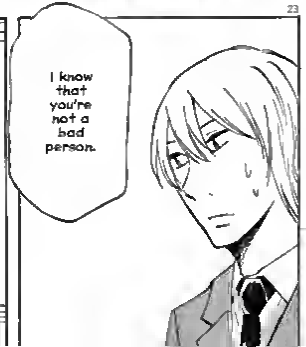
This is the Literature Club
I am its president,
and you are my kouhai.


But there's no way you can survive on your own.
There are rules to society

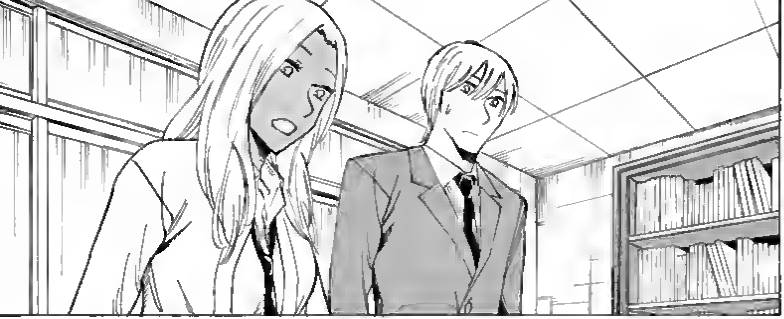
Show at least a minimum amount of respect

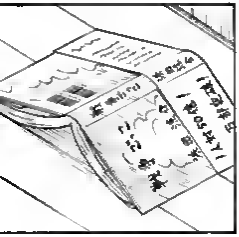


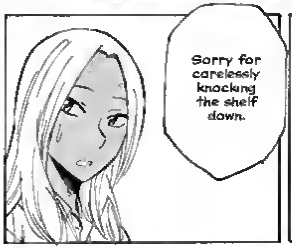
ガシ
Let's do this again.
I'll be in your care from now on.

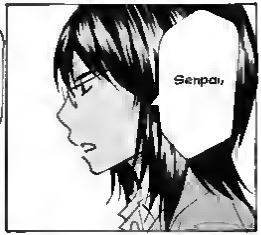

I know that you're not a bad person.

ぐっ
ぐっ
24
sfx
THUD
ダァァァン

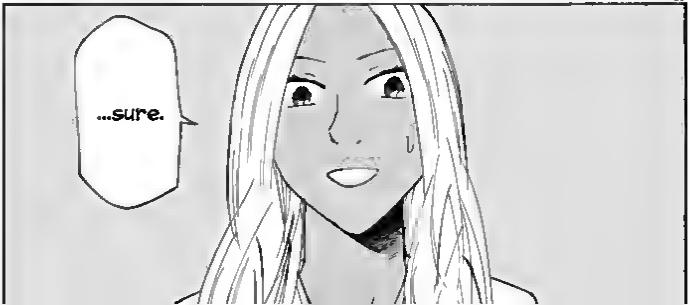


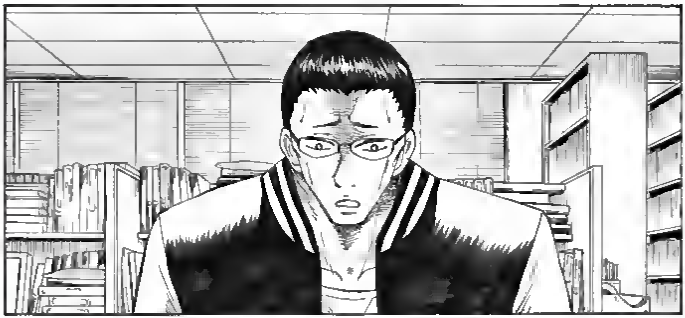



Sorry for carelessly knocking the shelf down.


Senpai,

So I will take respon-sibility and fix it.
I am your kouhai,


...sure.



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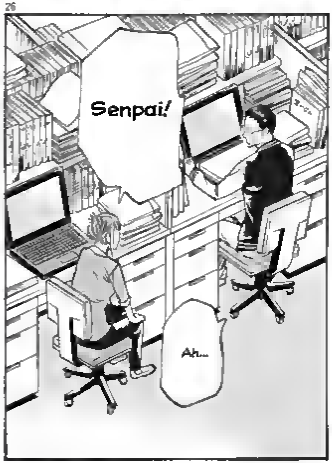
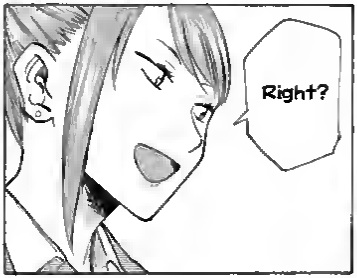

Senpai!
Ah...

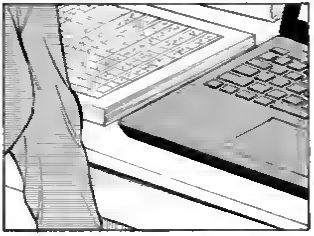
Ootsubo-san, have you finished reading it yet?

Ontsubo-san.
Ootsubo-san.


Right?

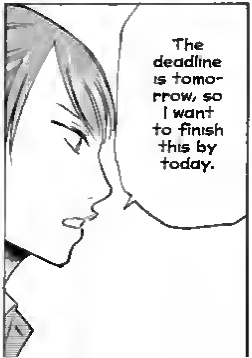
Wow.

Huh?



Ootsuba-san, the last 20 pages, if you please
But still...
even if we disregard the submission requirements, handing us a hand-written manuscript is just

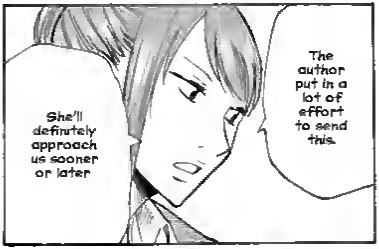
Well, even if you do,
there's no author profile, right?


The deadline is tomorrow, so I want to finish this by today.

Hanai, are you...
Retyping everything onto a file?

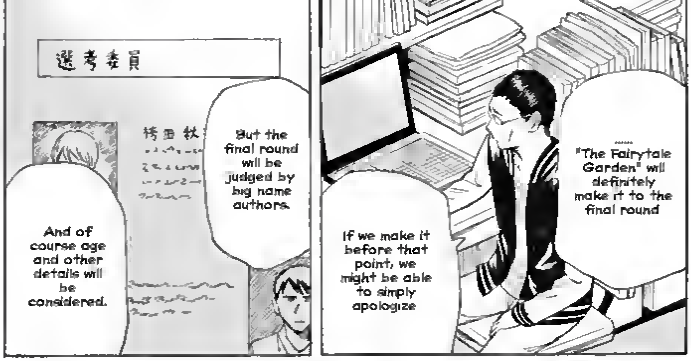
We could just apologize for a mistake like that and be done with it.
As soon as we figure out the correct profile, we'll swap them out.
.....

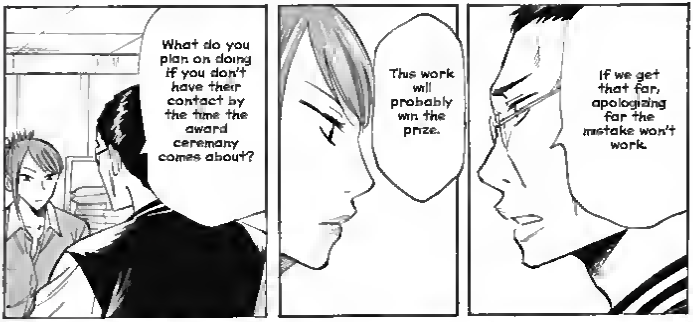
We'll make some random stuff up.

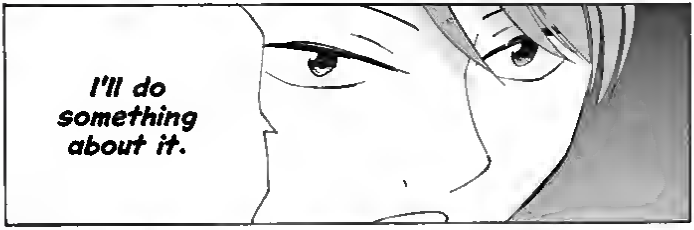

She'll definitely approach us sooner or later
The author put in a lot of effort to send this.

.....as soon as we figure it out?
How?

If there's a call from Ayukui Hibiki, please pass it on to me.
.....Pass it on, you say...

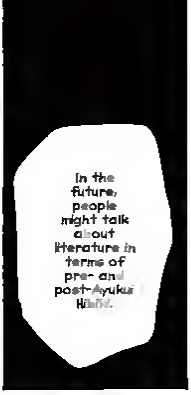

選考委員
But the final round will be judged by big name authors.
And of course age and other details will be considered.
"The Fairytale Garden" will definitely make it to the final round
If we make it before that point, we might be able to simply apologize


What do you plan on doing if you don't have their contact by the time the award ceremony comes about?
This work will probably win the prize.
If we get that far, apologizing for the mistake won't work.


I'll do something about it.

I don't want to let this chance go.

With that in mind,


In the future, people might talk about literature in terms of pre- and post-Ayuku Hiishi.

This might be a water-shed.
A turning point in history.

I'm willing to do anything it takes.

I am!
...you're so young

Chap ter 3 In ten tion.

I FAILED MY HIGH SCHOOL DEBUT.

I WANTED TO CHANGE MY SHY, POOR TALKING SELF, SO I DIED MY HAIR

WORE CONTACTS INSTEAD OF GLASSES, AND REMEMBERED TO PUT ON MAKE UP

I GOT SO FAR ...

2

HEY, YOU GOT A MINUTE?

ビク

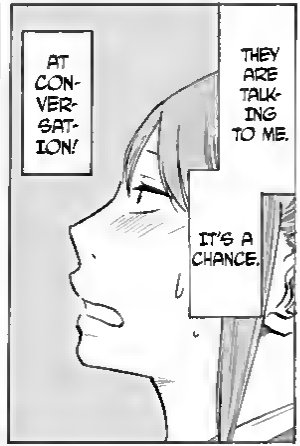
!

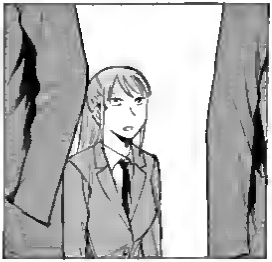
WE ENTERED THE LACROSSE CLUB BUT THERE AREN'T ENOUGH NEW MEMBERS, SO WE'RE GETTING SOME.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LACROSSE? DO YOU HAVE A CLUB ALREADY IN MIND?

I'M SURE IT'D NEVER WORK, EVEN IF MY LIFE'S AT STAKE
LACROSSE... A SPORTS CLUB, AND STYLISH AT THAT.
UM...
NO WAY I CAN HANDLE THIS.

ER...
BUT I HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING POSITIVE
SOME-THING

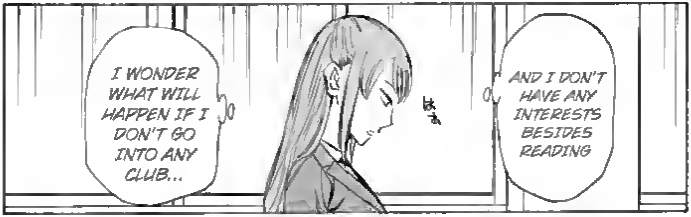

AT CON-VER-SAT-ION!
THEY ARE TALK-ING TO ME.
IT'S A CHANCE.



AH...
YOU CAN JUST FORGET IT, OKAY?
AHH WE ARE SORRY LOOKS LIKE WE WERE PUTTING YOU ON THE SPOT.

MAYBE I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR HAVING CONVER-SATIONS
I GOT SO FAR, AND ...
I STILL CAN'T TALK TO PEOPLE WELL...

BUT THAT TURNED OUT TO BE A HANGOUT FOR SOME YAKUZA LOOKING GUYS
I WENT TO THE LITERATURE CLUB BECAUSE I THOUGHT I COULD AT LEAST DO MY BEST IN IT,

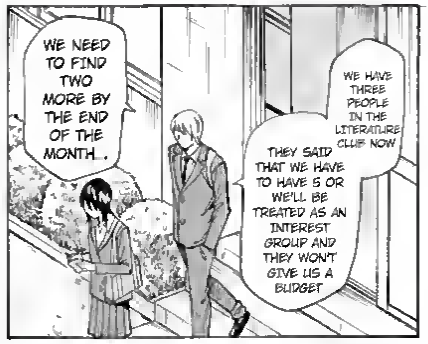

I WONDER WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DON'T GO INTO ANY CLUB...
AND I DON'T HAVE ANY INTERESTS BESIDES READING

YEAH.
SEE YA, RYO-UTA
MAYBE I'LL BE EXPEL-LED...

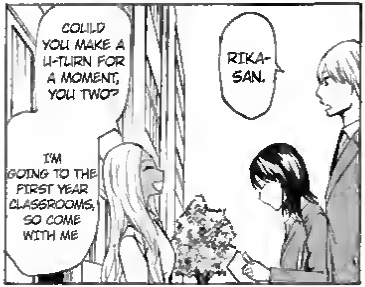
4

I TRIED ASKING THE GUYS IN CLASS, BUT...
IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE ALREADY HAS A GOOD IDEA ABOUT WHAT CLUB THEY WANT TO JOIN.

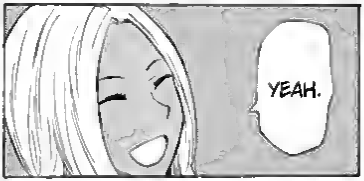
AH.
I'LL LEAVE THAT UP TO YOU.
YOU'RE GOOD AT THAT SORT OF THING ANYWAY


WE NEED TO FIND TWO MORE BY THE END OF THE MONTH...
WE HAVE THREE PEOPLE IN THE LITERATURE CLUB NOW
THEY SAID THAT WE HAVE TO HAVE 5 OR WE'LL BE TREATED AS AN INTEREST GROUP AND THEY WON'T GIVE US A BUDGET

5


RIKA-SAN.
COULD YOU MAKE A U-TURN FOR A MOMENT, YOU TWO?
I'M GOING TO THE FIRST YEAR CLASSROOMS, SO COME WITH ME

FIRST YEAR CLASS-ROOMS?
ARE YOU PERSU-ADING PEOPLE TO JOIN?


YEAH.

PERFECT TIMING.

YOU KNOW, BEFORE YOU TWO CAME ALONG, THERE WAS ACTUALLY SOMEONE WHO CAME ON THE DAY OF THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY.

WELL, I TURNED HER AWAY.

BUT NOW THAT TAKAYA AND THE OTHERS ARE GONE, I WAS THINKING I COULD ASK HER AGAIN.

OH.

A TALL GIRL.

SHE HAD BIG BOOBS TOO.

ALSO DYED BROWN HAIR AND MAKEUP.

I MADE SURE TO AT LEAST ASK HER NAME AND CLASS

WHAT WAS SHE LIKE?

SHE REALLY FELT LIKE SOMEONE WHO TRIED HER BEST TO HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DEBUT ..

AFTER HAVING A BORING MIDDLE SCHOOL LIFE, SHE GAVE OFF A NICE VIBE.

HUH

SEKIGUCHI-SAN...?

AHH, THAT WHISPERING GIRL.

LOOKS LIKE SHE FAILED HER DEBUT.

THAT GIRL RIGHT? THE ONE WE TRIED TO RECRUIT AWHILE AGO

WHO?

SINCE WE KNOW HER CLASS AND NAME, SHOULD I JUST INVITE HER TOMORROW?

WE SHOULD LOOK FOR HER IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS THEN

SHE'S NOT IN CLASS, SO MAYBE SHE ALREADY LEFT?

WE'RE SORRY, WE DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS.

RIGHT, THANKS.

LIBRARY

NO NEED.

I THINK I'VE GOT A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF WHERE SHE IS.

AH.

THERE SHE IS

HELLO

REMEMBER ME?

THE LITERA-TURE CLUB

YUP, YUP.

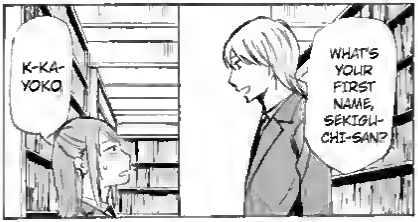
SORRY ABOUT TURNING YOU AWAY ON THE DAY OF THE OPENING CEREMONY.

ANYWAYS, THINGS HAPPENED AND THOSE SCARY SENPAI WHO DROVE YOU OFF ARE GONE

EH.

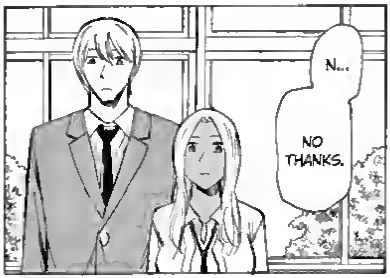
HELLO.
AND THESE TWO PEOPLE HAVE JOINED INSTEAD
FIRST YEARS RYOUTA-KUN AND HIBIKI-CHAN

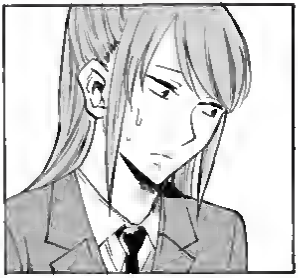
IS A HIGH SCHOOL LITERATURE CLUB REALLY LIKE THIS
WHAT'S WITH THE HOT GUY
AND THAT GYARU SENPAI?
SO ANYWAY,


K-KA-YOKO.
WHAT'S YOUR FIRST NAME, SEKIGU-CHI-SAN?

CAN I CALL YOU KAYO-CHAN?

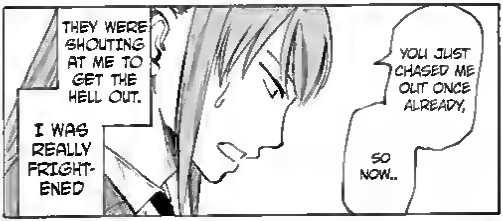
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR CLUB AGAIN?



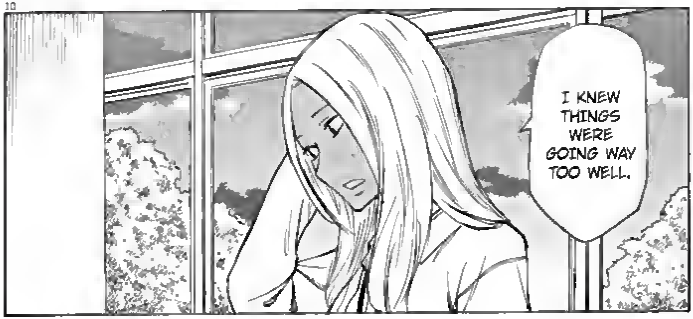


I HATE THE FACT I CAN'T BE HONEST WITH MYSELF

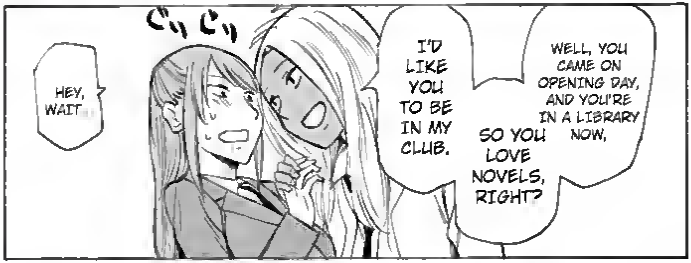
SO MUCH SO THAT I COULD DIE.

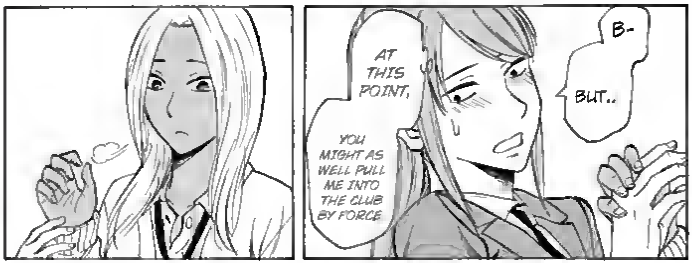


10

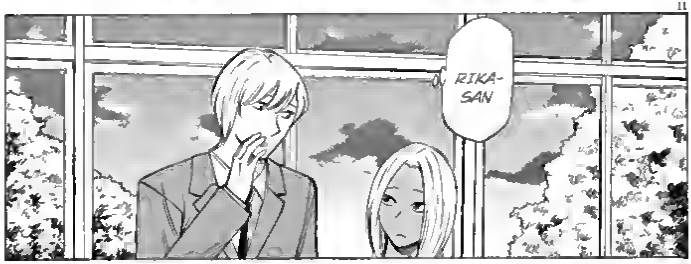


KAYO-CHAN, ARE YOU IN ANY OTHER CLUBS?
... NO.


WELL, YOU CAME ON OPENING DAY, AND YOU'RE IN A LIBRARY NOW, SO YOU LOVE NOVELS, RIGHT?
I'D LIKE YOU TO BE IN MY CLUB.
HEY, WAIT...

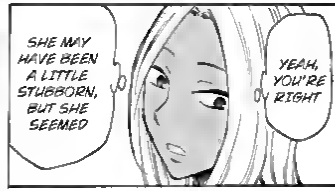

B-
BUT..
AT THIS POINT,
YOU MIGHT AS WELL PULL ME INTO THE CLUB BY FORCE

11


RIKA-SAN

SHE'LL JOIN THE CLUB IF WE INVITE HER 2 TO 3 DAYS LATER.
YEAH

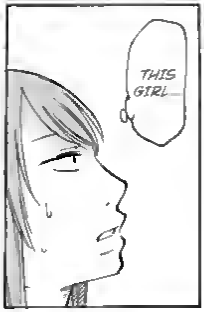
WHY DON'T WE GO BACK FOR NOW AND ASK HER TOMORROW?


SHE MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE STUBBORN, BUT SHE SEEMED
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT

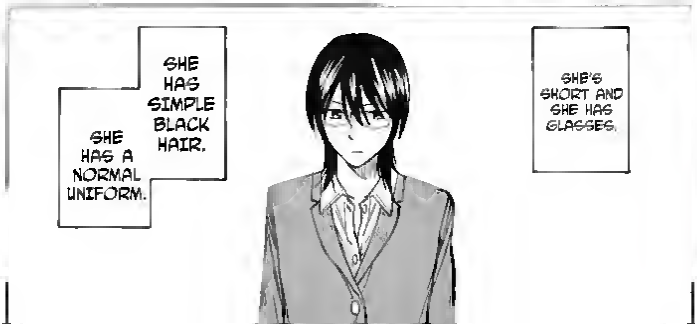
RIGHT.
NOTHING MUCH WE CAN DO... HUH
IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT SINCE YOU'RE BEING SO INSISTENT...
FINE THEN. LET'S GO, RYOUTA-KUN

AHHH THAT'S TOO BAD.
WE JUST HAVE TO GIVE UP NOW

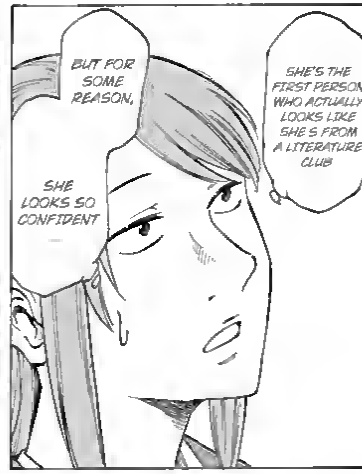
WAIT,
YOU AREN'T GONNA INVITE ME ANYMORE?

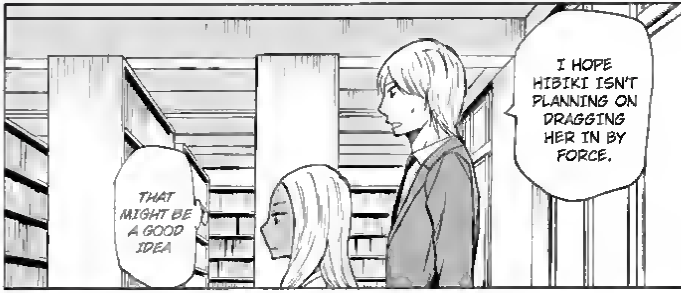

THIS GIRL...

HISHIKI?

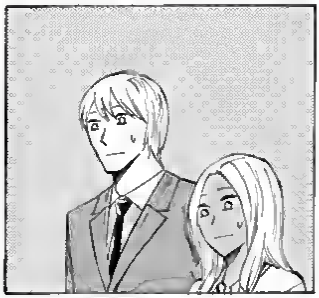

SHE'S SHORT AND SHE HAS GLASSES.
SHE HAS SIMPLE BLACK HAIR.
SHE HAS A NORMAL UNIFORM.

NO, MENACING


BUT FOR SOME REASON,
SHE'S THE FIRST PERSON WHO ACTUALLY LOOKS LIKE SHE'S FROM A LITERATURE CLUB
SHE LOOKS SO CONFIDENT


I HOPE HIBIKI ISN'T PLANNING ON DRAGGING HER IN BY FORCE.
THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA

DID YOU HEAR WHAT THOSE TWO JUST SAID?
HUH?



"SHE'LL JOIN THE CLUB IF WE INVITE HER 2 TO 3 DAYS LATER."
"SHE MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE STUBBORN"

WELL I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO WALK AROUND FOR TWO OR THREE MORE DAYS FOR YOUR SAKE

MAKE YOUR DECISION NOW.
WILL YOU JOIN, OR NOT?

YOU CAN'T EVEN DECIDE ON A SINGLE CLUB WITHOUT SOMEONE HOLDING YOUR HAND ALONG THE WAY?

DOES SHE REALLY EXPECT ME TO AGREE AFTER BEING ASKED LIKE THAT?
WELL

... YOU RE KIDDING
WHAT KIND OF RECRUIT-MENT IS THIS?

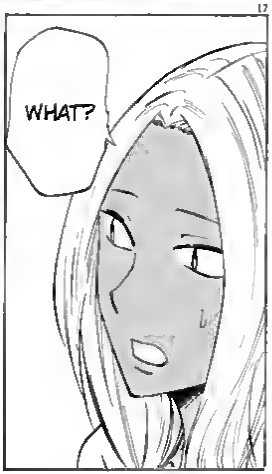
IS IT FUN TO BE ALIVE?

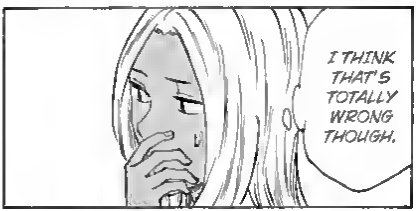
YOU'RE DONE TALKING TO HER ALREADY, RYOUTA-ROU
BE QUIET. I'M TALKING TO HER RIGHT NOW.

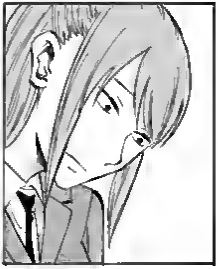
HIBIKI! YOUR PHRASING...

SHE GOT ANNOYED BECAUSE SHE'S LOOKING AT HERSELF, RIGHT?
-Haaa
DID SHE...
GET MAD?

IS... THAT SO?
LOOK, THEY'RE BOTH QUIET AND OBEDIENT PEOPLE.


WHAT?


I THINK THAT'S TOTALLY WRONG THOUGH.



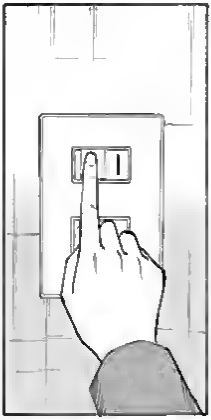
YOU DON'T EVEN DO YOUR HAIR,

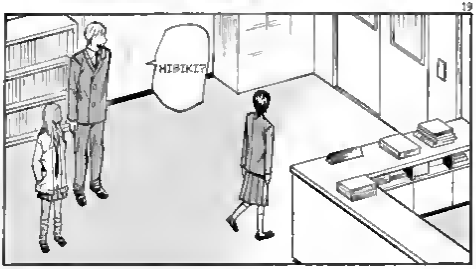
AND YOU LOOK OUT OF FASHION ...

YOU ARE SHORT,

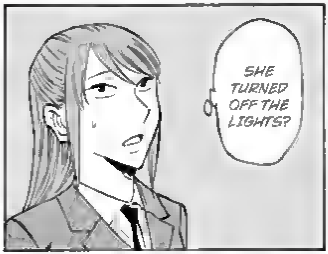
YOU WEAR GLAS-SES,

HOW CAN YOU BE SO COOL?
AND YET...

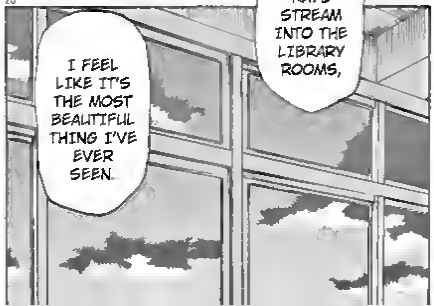



HIBIKI?

?
EH?


SHE TURNED OFF THE LIGHTS?

WHEN THE SUN SETS,


AND ITS RAYS STREAM INTO THE LIBRARY ROOMS,
I FEEL LIKE IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING I'VE EVER SEEN.

I BELIEVE THAT I CAN PERCEIVE BEAUTIFUL THINGS AS THEY ARE: BEAUTIFUL.

21

OR MAYBE

ARE YOU SAYING THAT EVERYONE ELSE IS CONFIDENT IN THEMSELVES BECAUSE THEY FOLLOW THEIR FEELINGS?

IT DOESN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE

IT'S NOT YOUR APPEARANCE

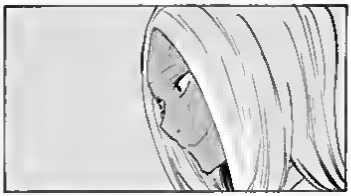
NOR YOUR WAY OF THINKING

ARE YOU JUST SPECIAL .....

IF I STICK TO THIS PERSON, WILL I ONE DAY...

BE ABLE TO TO FIND THAT CONFIDENCE WITHIN MYSELF?

I'LL JOIN...



WELCOME TO THE LITERATURE CLUB.
図書室

SO NOW WE HAVE FOUR PEOPLE.

NOW THAT WE'RE ONLY MISSING ONE PERSON WE COULD PROBABLY JUST ASK SOME RANDOM PERSON IN CLASS

AT WORSE, WE CAN STILL BORROW THEIR NAME AND CREATE OURSELVES A PHANTOM MEMBER...

...BY THE WAY, HIBIKI.

THAT BIT ABOUT THE SUNSET AND THE LIBRARY, YOU WERE JUST MAKING UP SOME RANDOM CRAP, RIGHT?

YUP.

THAT GIRL WAS STUCK ON THE IDEA THAT SHE WAS SOME KIND OF FICTIONAL HEROINE,

SO I TRIED SAYING SOMETHING ALONG THOSE LINES.

SHE WOULD HAVE TURNED ANYTHING I SAID INTO A REASON TO JOIN THE CLUB.

AFTER ALL, HOW IS THE SUNSET BEING BEAUTIFUL EVEN RELATED TO JOINING THE CLUB?

HOW CAN SHE LIVE WITH HER HEAD DOWN LIKE THAT .

IF SHE CAN'T EXPRESS HER INTENTIONS WITHOUT SOMEONE ACTING AS AN INTERMEDIARY,

THEN THERE'S NO POINT TO HER EXISTING.

SO...

SHE REALLY WAS MAD AT HER?

HEY.

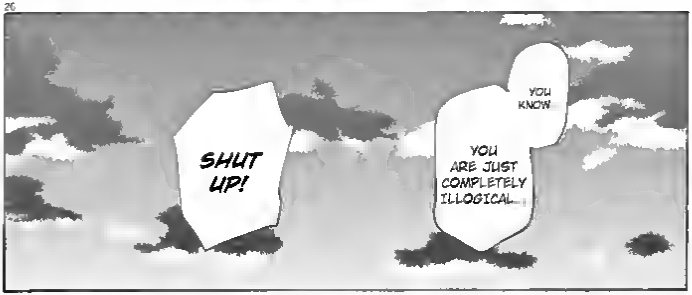
HM?

NO? YOU'RE THE CUTEST PERSON IN THE WORLD.

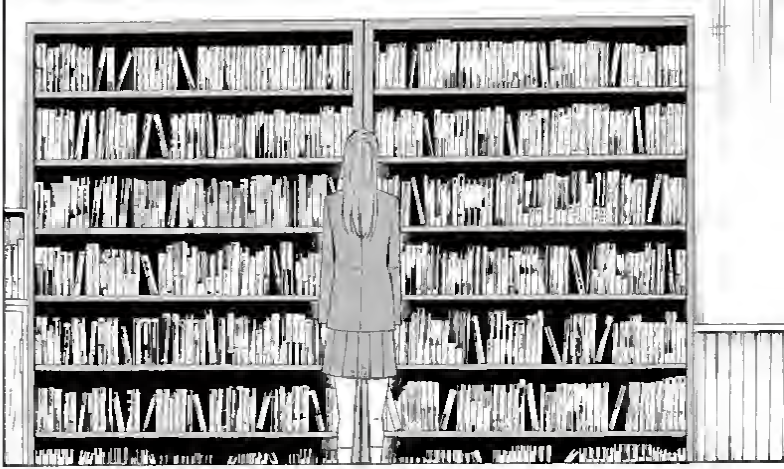
AM I REALLY ...
OUT OF STYLE?

UGH

26


YOU KNOW
YOU ARE JUST COMPLETELY ILLOGICAL...
SHUT UP!

Chapter 4 Rooftop

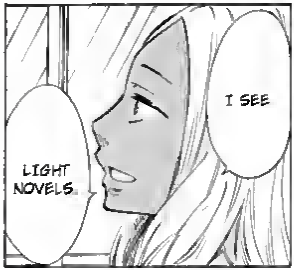


O-OKAY.
KAYO-CHAN, YOU'RE FREE TO BORROW THOSE BOOKS THERE

KAYO-CHAN WHAT KINDA BOOKS DO YOU NORMALLY READ?
WHAT KIND
POPULAR BOOKS? PURE LITERA-TURE?

AH, 'PLAYING WAR'.
THIS WAS A REALLY POPULAR BOOK
I WANTED TO READ THIS

WHAT'S PURE LITERATURE?


I SEE
LIGHT NOVELS.

KAYO-CHAN, WHAT KINDA BOOKS DO YOU LIKE?
UHH, 'THE MAGICIAN OF ZERO',
'THE QUEEN IS A PART TIMER' 'LOVE LIFE' AND STUFF...

3

SO...
WHAT'S PURE LITERATURE?

OH, ARE LNS NOT PART OF THE LITERATURE CLUB...
WELL, KIND OF, LNS ARE ALSO LITERATURE.
THAT'S GOOD...

THAT'S PURE LITERATURE.

DAZAI, MISHIMA, SAKAGUCHI ANGOU, ENDOU SHUUSAKU, OOE KENZABUROU, MURAKAMI HARUKI.

THEM TOO.

KAWAKAMI HIROMI?

AND MURAKAMI RYUU?

HIRANO KEIICHIROU, KANEHIRA HITOMI? ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

HUH...

SO THE BOOKS WRITTEN BY THOSE AUTHORS.

AHH, JUST ONE MORE LEFT.

RIKA-SAN

SO ABOUT BRINGING THOSE MEMBERS.

IT COMPLETELY ELEVATES THE AUTHOR'S NAME

AND YOU CAN JUDGE THE AUTHOR'S WORK FOR YOURSELF AFTER READING

IT'S SURPRISINGLY AMBIGUOUS, BUT WELL IT'S CORRECT

BUT I GUESS YOU CAN ANSWER THAT WAY.

THE QUESTION OF WHAT IS PURE LITERATURE SHOULDN'T HAVE AN ANSWER

HIBIKI-CHAN, THERE IS JUST ONE MEMBER LEFT.

THERE ARE STILL SOME CLASSMATES WHO HAVEN'T GONE INTO A CLUB, SO I COULD JUST ..

ANYBODY'S FINE. JUST INVITE ONE PERSON.

I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

THE LITERATURE CLUB ORIGINALLY MET THE 5 MEMBER QUOTA.

THOSE WERE THE MEMBERS I BROUGHT IN

WHY HIBIKI?

SO? AM I WRONG?

SO IT'S YOUR ROLE TO GATHER THE MISSING MEMBER

THEN HIBIKI-CHAN CHASED THEM OUT

YEAH.
THAT'S THE KINDA GIRL SHE IS.

ALRIGHT.

BY THE WAY, DO YOU KNOW ANYONE?

...WHO?

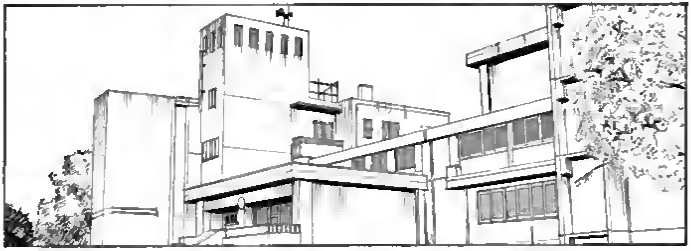
OH, HIBIKI-CHAN, I DIDN'T EXPECT FOR YOU TO GET USED TO YOUR CLASS
HEY RYOUTA-KUN, WHO DOES HIBIKI-CHAN HAVE IN MIND?

...RUDE.
AS OF NOW, HIBIKI HAS NEVER HAD A PROPER CONVERSATION WITH ANYONE ELSE BUT ME.
NO...
IT'S NOT SOMEBODY IN CLASS?

SURE
I'LL BRING HIM TOMOR-ROW

THERE'S SOMEONE.
HE'S NOT A CLASS-MATE, BUT I TALKED TO HIM.

I HOPE HE'S A QUIET ONE
I WONDER WHAT KINDA GUY HE IS.



JOIN.
WE'RE MISSING MEMBERS IN THE LITERATU-RE CLUB.

WHAT WAS THAT?

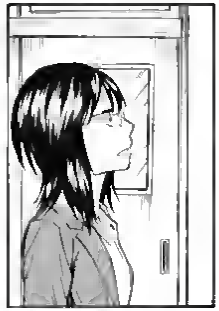
.....
YOU INSANE?

WELL, SHE DID TALK TO HIM...
SO...
WHAT'S SHE EVEN THINKING ...

MORE IMPORTANTLY I STILL DON'T HAVE MY DOCTOR'S FEE AND APOLOGY FEE.
BOOK.
BRING IT HERE.

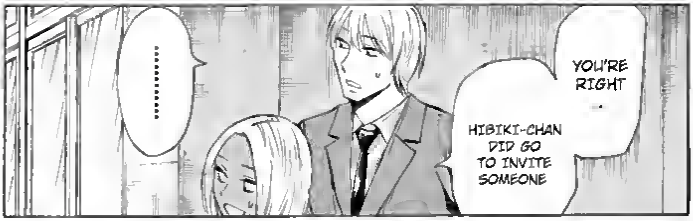
DON'T JUST SPOUT NON-SENSE OUT.

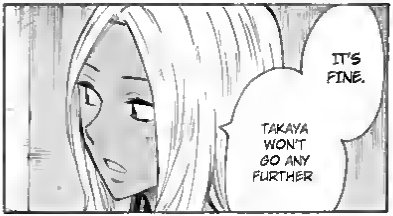
YOU SEE.
I THOUGHT I ACCEPTED YOUR CHALLENGE WHEN YOU PICKED A FIGHT WITH ME

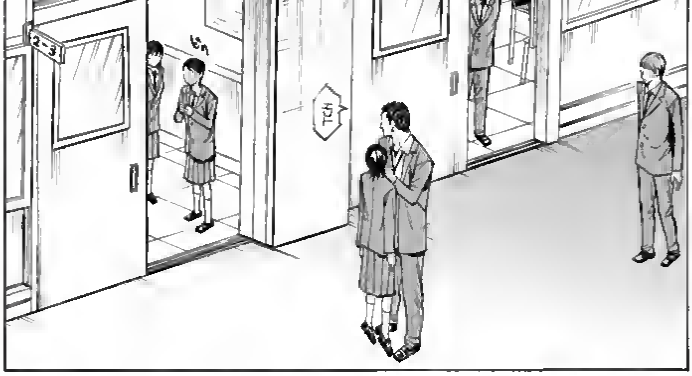


AND I'M PAYING THE FEE BECAUSE I HURT YOU IN THE FIGHT?
YOU'RE ACTING QUITE ...
MANLY AND COOL THERE.

DO YOU WANNA BE KILLED!?



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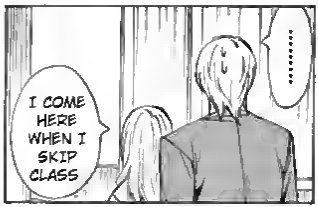
WE'RE GOING SOME-WHERE ELSE

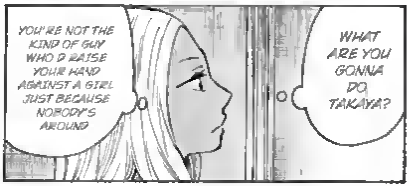
ぱっ


I COME HERE WHEN I SKIP CLASS
.....

I OPENED IT TOO BEFORE.
I JUST USED A HAIRPIN
SO HE OPENED THE ROOF-TOP LOCK

YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S NOT MANLY TO ASK FOR MONEY TO SETTLE A FIGHT.

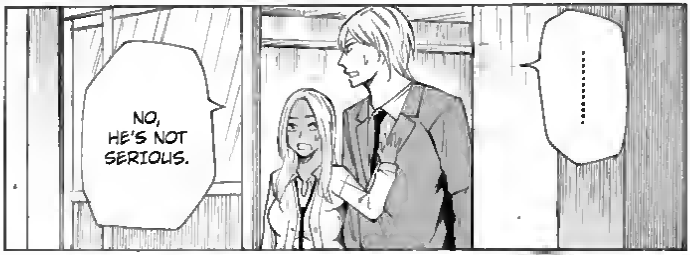
ギュッ


YOU'RE NOT THE KIND OF GUY WHO'D RAISE YOUR HAND AGAINST A GIRL JUST BECAUSE NOBODY'S AROUND
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, TAKAYA?

FALL DOWN FROM HERE.

THEN THAT'S THE PAYMENT.

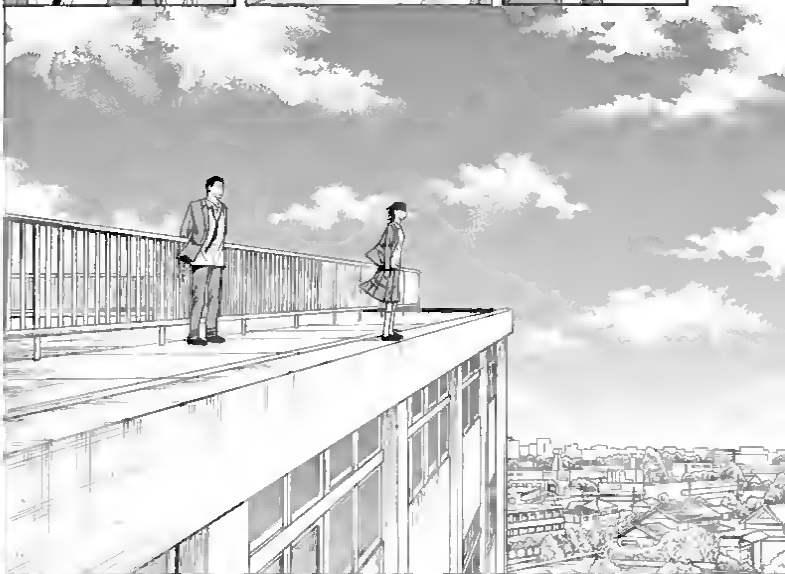
THERE ARE TREES BELOW.
YOU PROBABLY WON'T DIE.
AT WORST, YOU'LL JUST HAVE SOME BROKEN BONES.

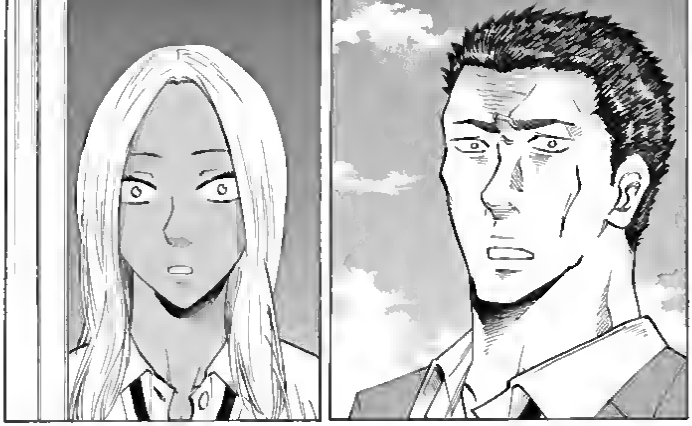

NO, HE'S NOT SERIOUS.
.....

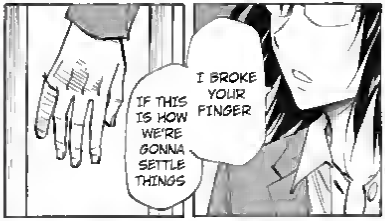
.....
SO MAKE AN UNREASONABLE DEMAND AND MAKE HER BOW HER HEAD
WELL, ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD THINK OF THAT

SO HE THOUGHT OF SOMETHING ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD COME UP WITH.
IF HE CAN'T GET MONEY OR LAY A HAND ON HER, HOW COULD HE MAKE HER SUBMIT...
ANYWAYS, LEAVE TODAY TO HIBIKI-CHAN.
THE GIRL SOWED THIS SEED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WHAT'S WRONG MAN?
YOU WIPE YOUR OWN ASS.
IF YOU CAN DO THAT, I'LL JOIN YOUR LITERATURE CLUB.

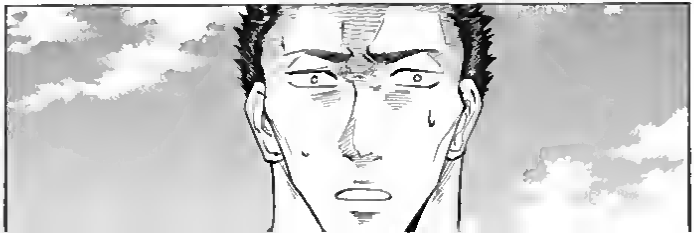


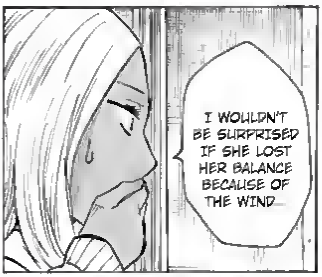



IF THIS IS HOW WE'RE GONNA SETTLE THINGS
I BROKE YOUR FINGER

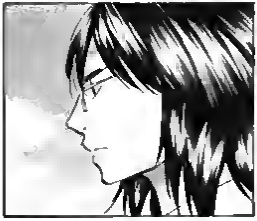
HUH?
GO FOR IT

GO AND PUSH ME.




I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF SHE LOST HER BALANCE BECAUSE OF THE WIND...

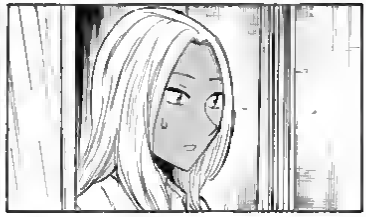
HIBIKI-CHAN KNOWS TAKAYA CAN'T DO IT.
BUT MORE IMPOR-TANTLY.
WHY DID SHE GO THERE WITHOUT CAUSING ANY TROUBLE?



THERE MAY BE TREES UNDER THERE
BUT I CAN'T REALLY TELL SHE MIGHT ACTUALLY DIE
THERE'S A LIMIT TO BEING STUBBORN.

THIS IS THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

EVERYTHING LOOKS DIFFERENT WHEN YOU STAND IN A DIFFERENT SPOT



SO?

WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL?

DON'T JUST SAY 'SO', HOW CAN YOU PROVOKE HIM EVEN MORE?
COME ON JUST COME BACK
I FEEL MY LIFE GETTING SHORTER JUST LOOKING AT YOU

COME BACK
I SEE YOU HAVE THE NERVES
I KNEW TAKAYA WOULDN'T EVER PUSH HER OFF
ON TOP OF THAT...
I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIBIKI-CHAN'S LEG STRENGTH AND SENSE OF BALANCE
NO MATTER HOW STRONGLY THE WIND BLOWS, I'M SURE SHE WON'T FALL OFF
I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN HER...
!

АН.

ИИ.

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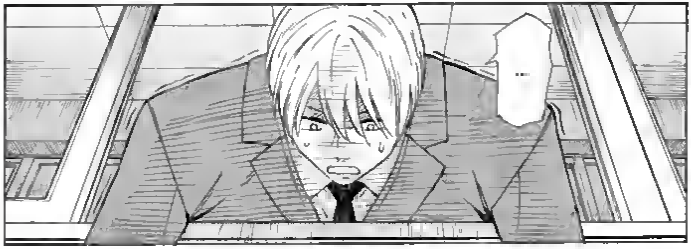
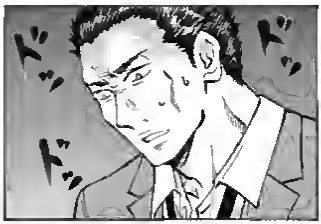

...

WHOA, THAT SCARED ME ..

RYOUTA -KUN...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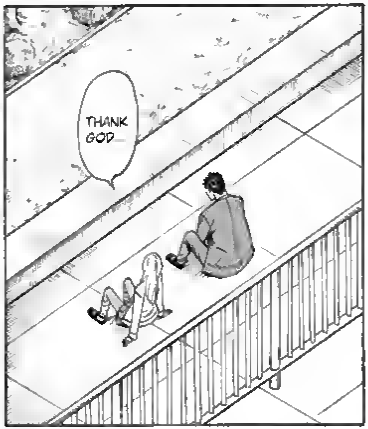
THANK GOD...

OW
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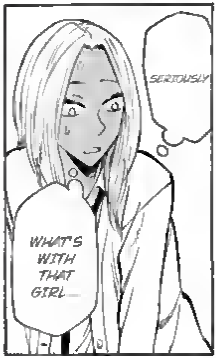
23

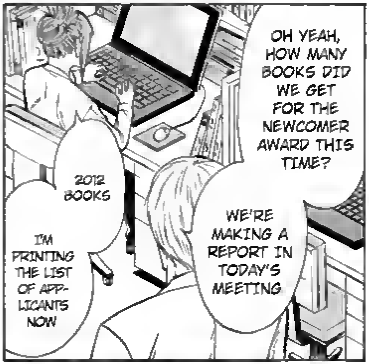

SERIOUSLY
WHAT'S WITH THAT GIRL...

NO.
THIS GIRL...
IS MORE INSANE THAN ME..

RIKA
WHEN DID YOU
KNOW YOUR OPPONENT WHEN YOU PICK A FIGHT!
STUPID!

OKAY.
HEY HANAI. THE MEETING'S GONNA BEGIN.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHICH ONE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
SO IN THE END...
DID YOU PUT IN THAT NOVEL?


OH YEAH, HOW MANY BOOKS DID WE GET FOR THE NEWCOMER AWARD THIS TIME?
2012 BOOKS
WE'RE MAKING A REPORT IN TODAY'S MEETING
I'M PRINTING THE LIST OF APPLICANTS NOW

52 NISHIEDA KOUICHI
53 KIDA RYOUHEI
THE BLUE SEA AND THE EMPTY NIGHT
54 AYUKUI HIBIKI
THE FAIRYTALE GARDEN
55
56
57
BUT I DID.

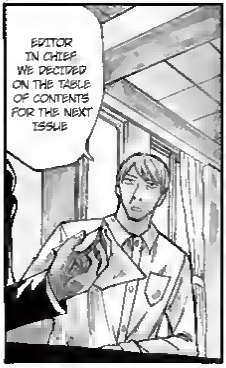
Chapter 5 Phone call

MORITA-SAN'S 'HOLY LAND' IS COMING TO AN END NEXT VOLUME.

SO THE COVER WILL BE OOTSUBO-SAN'S NEWEST PUBLICATION.

WE CAN PUT HIS INTERVIEW IN A LITTLE AFTER THAT.

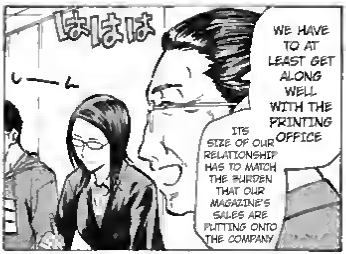
2

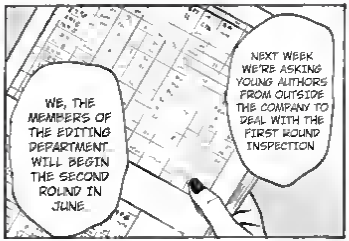


OKAY, SO IF BOTTOM HALF OF THE CONTENT PAGE HAS THE REALLY GOOD ITEMS, AND THE TOP HALF MAKES FOR GOOD SMILES, WE CAN END THIS MEETING.

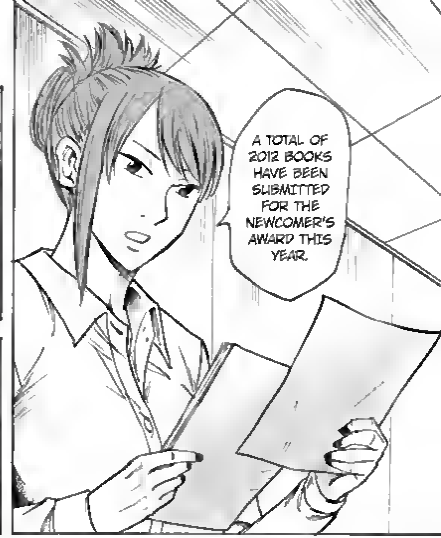
IT FEELS HAPPY AND IT FEELS SAD.

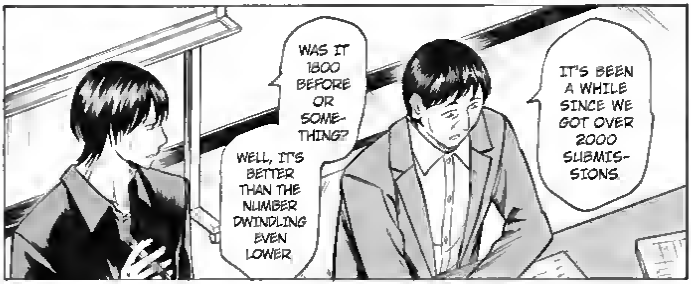
GOOD WORK.

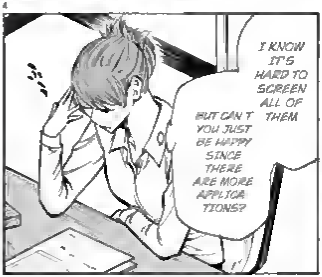



NEXT WEEK WE'RE ASKING YOUNG AUTHORS FROM OUTSIDE THE COMPANY TO DEAL WITH THE FIRST ROUND INSPECTION
WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE EDITING DEPARTMENT WILL BEGIN THE SECOND ROUND IN JUNE.

WE HOPE EVERY ONE OF YOU WILL DO THEIR PART
WE WILL LEAVE THIS TO EVERY ONE OF YOU.


A TOTAL OF 2012 BOOKS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR THE NEWCOMER'S AWARD THIS YEAR.


IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE GOT OVER 2000 SUBMIS-SIONS.
WAS IT 1800 BEFORE OR SOME-THING?
WELL, IT'S BETTER THAN THE NUMBER DWINDLING EVEN LOWER


I KNOW IT'S HARD TO SCREEN ALL OF THEM
BUT CAN'T YOU JUST BE HAPPY SINCE THERE ARE MORE APPLICA-TIONS?

SO 2000 BOOKS SUBMIS-SIONS
I'M HAPPY SINCE THE NUMBERS WENT UP.
BUT 2000..

LET'S LEAVE THE SECOND INSPECTION TO THE OUTSIDERS AS WELL.

IF THE NUMBER GETS THIS BIG
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
IT CAN HINDER OUR NORMAL OPERATIONS

HUH ?

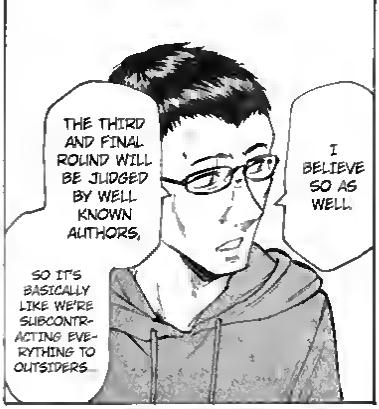
RATHER THAN TO US WHO HAVE TO SCREEN THEM DURING OUR BREAKS...
AND MAYDE IT'S BETTER TO LEAVE IT TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE TIME.
THAT'S TRUE, WE HAVE LESS PEOPLE IN THE EDITING DEPARTMENT COMPARED TO BEFORE

5

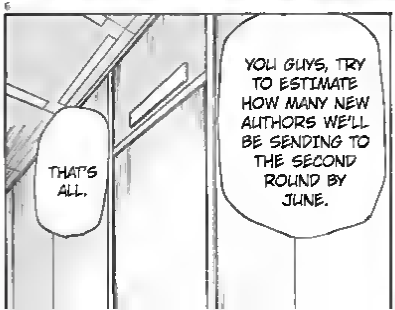
THE NUMBER OF SUBMISSIONS DID NOT SKYROCKET,
AND WE ALSO NEED THE OPINIONS OF THE EDITING DEPARTMENT FOR THIS
HANAI-CHAN, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

ガラ
EDITOR IN CHIEF!

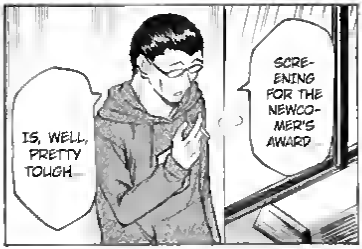
I SEE...
I SEE, I SEE
TRUE.


THE THIRD AND FINAL ROUND WILL BE JUDGED BY WELL KNOWN AUTHORS,
I BELIEVE SO AS WELL.
SO IT'S BASICALLY LIKE WE'RE SUBCONTRACTING EVERYTHING TO OUTSIDERS...

WE CAN LEAVE THE SECOND ROUND TO THE OUTSIDERS THEN.
WELL OKAY THEN.


THAT'S ALL.
YOU GUYS, TRY TO ESTIMATE HOW MANY NEW AUTHORS WE'LL BE SENDING TO THE SECOND ROUND BY JUNE.

喫煙室

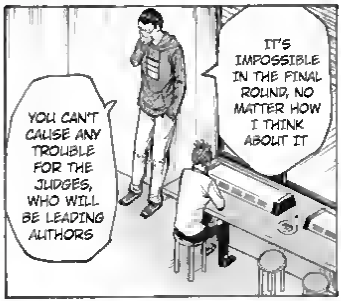

IS, WELL, PRETTY TOUGH...
SCREENING FOR THE NEWCOMER'S AWARD...

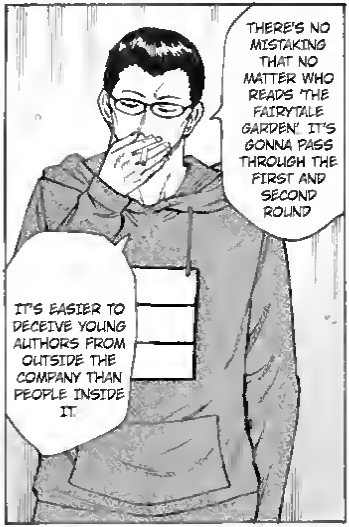
IT'S GOOD FOR YOU TO TRY AND THINK ABOUT IT.

WE'RE JUST PRETENDING TO BE EDITORS HERE.
MIGHT AS WELL JUST THROW THE REAL THING TO OUTSIDERS AS WELL.

THIS IS ABOUT AYUKUI HIBIKI.
HUH?

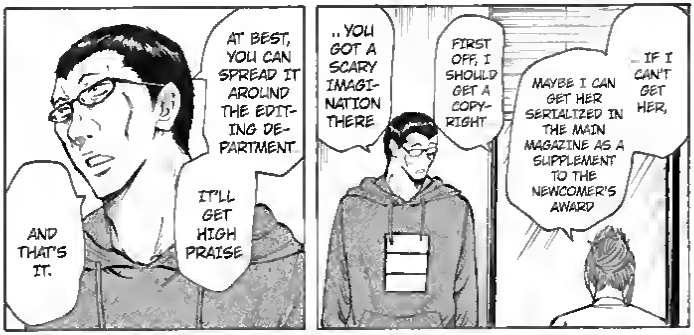
BUT THAT'S ONLY UP TO THE SECOND ROUND


YOU CAN'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE FOR THE JUDGES, WHO WILL BE LEADING AUTHORS
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE IN THE FINAL ROUND, NO MATTER HOW I THINK ABOUT IT


THERE'S NO MISTAKING THAT NO MATTER WHO READS 'THE FAIRYTALE GARDEN' IT'S GONNA PASS THROUGH THE FIRST AND SECOND ROUND
IT'S EASIER TO DECEIVE YOUNG AUTHORS FROM OUTSIDE THE COMPANY THAN PEOPLE INSIDE IT

AND IN THE FIRST PLACE, THEY NEED TO HAVE A COMMENT FROM AYUKUI HIBIKI SINCE SHE'S GONNA BE LEFT IN THE FINAL ROUND.

JUST THREE MONTHS.
IF YOU CAN'T CONTACT HER BY THE FINAL ROUND IN JULY.
GIVE UP.


AT BEST, YOU CAN SPREAD IT AROUND THE EDITING DEPARTMENT.
IT'LL GET HIGH PRAISE
AND THAT'S IT.
..YOU GOT A SCARY IMAGINATION THERE
FIRST OFF, I SHOULD GET A COPYRIGHT
MAYBE I CAN GET HER SERIALIZED IN THE MAIN MAGAZINE AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE NEWCOMER'S AWARD
...IF I CAN'T GET HER,

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE OUR MAGAZINE 'MOKUREN' HAS A SMALL AMOUNT OF STORIES IN CIRCULATION COMPARED TO OTHER LITERATURE MAGAZINES

OUR EDITOR IN CHIEF ISN'T DESPERATELY MOTIVATED FOR IT,

THERE'S ALWAYS ONE PERSON WHO CAN CHANGE THE AGE

THE INDUSTRY ITSELF IS ON ITS DEATHBED AND WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT

BUT THEY'LL CONTINUE TO DECREASE, WHETHER HE'S MOTIVATED OR NOT

RING RING RING

『ゲイボ

AND IN JUST THREE MONTHS—

YES, SHOURON PUBLI-SHING

HOW CAN I APPROACH THIS AYUKUI HIBIKI

PHONE, OR LETTER

?
I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER CALLING YOU GUYS BEFORE
UH...

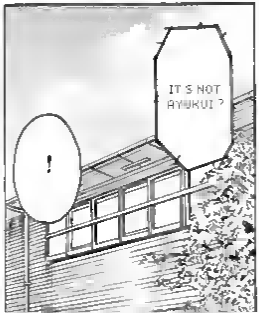
MY NAME IS AKUI
YES, THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE

CONNECT ME TO THE GUYS IN CHARGE OF THE NEWCOMER'S BILLIARD
OKAY, THEN THAT WOULD BE...

MAYBE IT'S A STUDENT READER?
I'M SORRY
WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE?

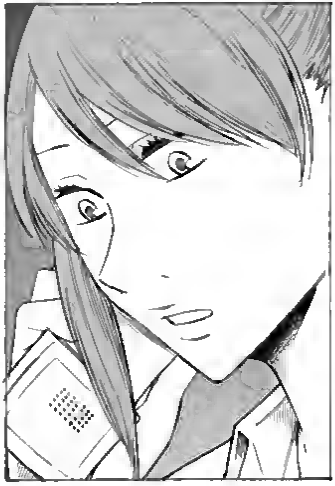
.....
'AKUI'-SAN?

.....


IT'S NOT AYUKUI?
!

TN: ONE OF THOSE NAME ORIGINATING THINGS 鱒 (TROUT) + 喰 (EAT) = AKUI (鱒喰)

HELLO?
AH.



EXCUSE ME,
MY NAME IS HANAI AND I'M IN CHARGE OF THE NEWCOMER AWARDS.
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?

...SHE'S FOR REAL.

SO YOU READ IT ALREADY

YOU SUBMITTED THE FAIRYTALE GARDEN' HERE.
I HAD THE PLEASURE OF READING IT.

Y-YES.
I WAS ABLE TO READ IT...
A YOUNG GIRL...
IN HER TWENTIES...?

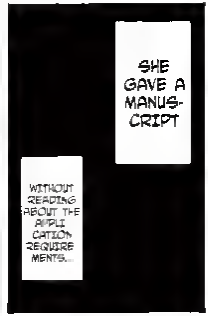
I DIDN'T PUT MY INFO IN, BUT WAS THAT ALRIGHT?
Y-YES
OH, NO.

OH CRAP
WHERE SHOULD I BEGIN...
I NEVER THOUGHT THIS WOULD HAPPEN SO QUICKLY

I DIDN'T SEE THE APPLI-CATION REQUIRE-MENTS
I KNOW THEM NOW.

YOU CAN'T DO THAT
WHY DID YOU SUBMIT IT HANDWRI-TTEN?
MORON, WHAT ARE YOU ASKING HER?
FIRST IS HER CONTACT INFOR-MATION...

A PRODI-GY


SHE GAVE A MANUS-CRIPT
WITHOUT READING ABOUT THE APPLI-CATION REQUIRE-MENTS...

15

THERE'S A LIMIT TO THE TRUTH BEHIND THE EXPRESSION 'LOVE IS BLIND'
I'M WAY TOO ECSTATIC NOW

.....
THIS IS SO AWE-SOME

SO

HOW WAS IT?

IT WAS UNBELI-EVABLE.

I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW MAYBE THIS WAS THE WAY FOR PEOPLE TO LIVE AS THEMSELVES IN THE WORLD

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TIME PERIOD OR WHAT COUNTRY IT TOOK PLACE IN,

BUT A NOSTALGIC SCENE EXPANDED BEFORE MY VERY EYES

AND I FELT LIKE YOU HAD THE RIGHT INTERPRETATION ABOUT HOW TO LIVE LIFE

17

AKUI-SAN, I READ YOUR FAIRY-TALE GARDEN

AND I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, THIS COULD BE WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR!

I'VE NEVER SEEN THE LIKES OF THIS BEFORE AND I WAS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING LIKE IT

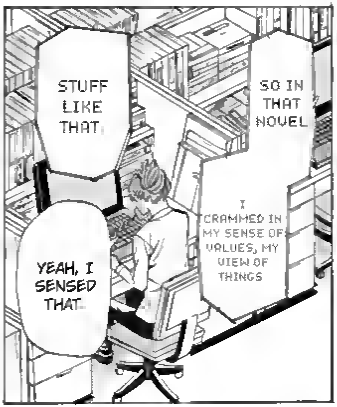
THIS WON'T JUST BE A NEW FLAVOR IN THE INDUSTRY,

IT CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

I SEE.

IT WAS INTERES-TING.

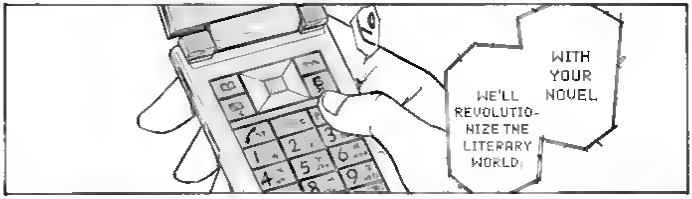
THE FIRST SNOW FALLS UPON THE MOUNTAINS.
ALL OF THEM WERE ESPECIALLY INTEGRATED INTO THE FINAL SCENE.
I WAS SPEECHLESS AT HOW SOMEONE COULD DIE SO BEAUTIFULLY.

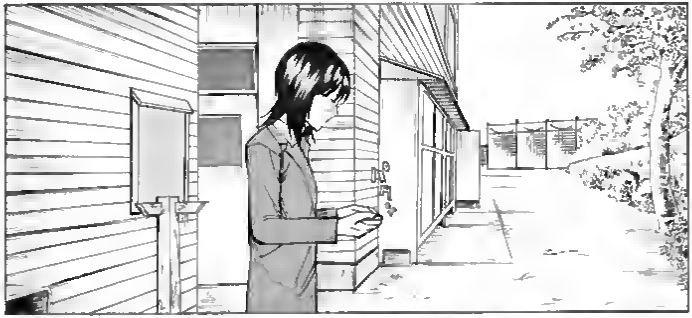

STUFF LIKE THAT.
SO IN THAT NOVEL
I CRAMMED IN MY SENSE OF VALUES, MY VIEW OF THINGS
YEAH, I SENSED THAT.

YES
HANAI-SAN
MY NAME

THANKS.

AKUI-SAN,
FROM NOW ON


WITH YOUR NOVEL
WE'LL REVOLUTIO-NIZE THE LITERARY WORLD.

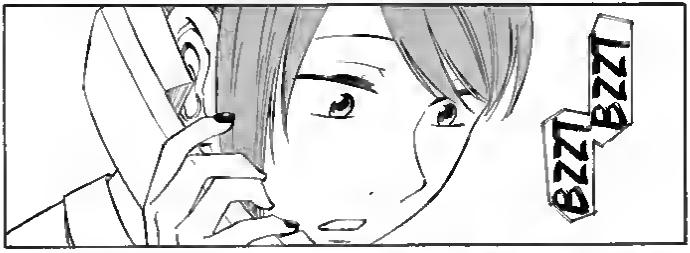


I SEE...

I SEE
THEY READ IT ALREADY.

SO...

I WAS RIGHT THEN...



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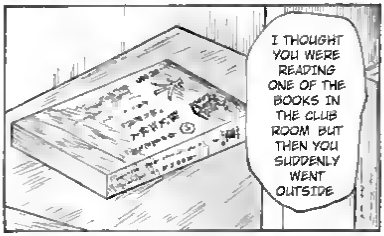
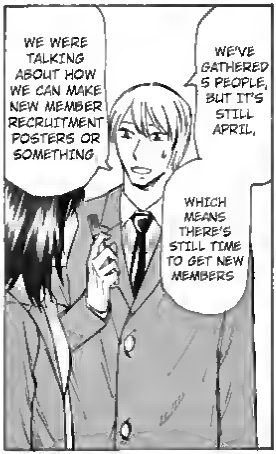
TAKAYA, DON'T FREAK HER OUT.
A-ARE YOU OKAY?
WAH!
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING

AHHH, YOU'RE BACK.

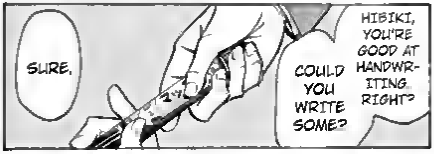


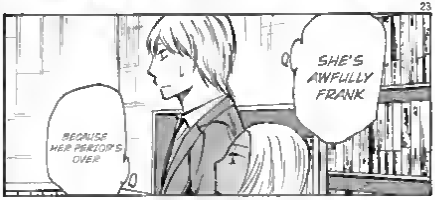
UH
STUPID
HER PERIOD HER PERIOD

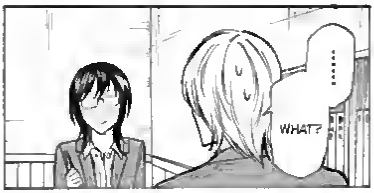
?
WHAT WAS IT?


WE'VE GATHERED 5 PEOPLE, BUT IT'S STILL APRIL.
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW WE CAN MAKE NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT POSTERS OR SOMETHING.
WHICH MEANS THERE'S STILL TIME TO GET NEW MEMBERS

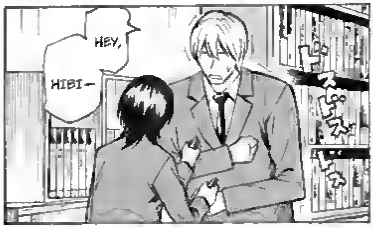
SO,
WHAT DID YOU GUYS DO?
TAKAYA TRIED TO ASSAULT KAYO-CHAN
EEP!
COME ON, DAMMIT!


HIBIKI, YOU'RE GOOD AT HANDWRITING, RIGHT?
COULD YOU WRITE SOME?
SURE.


SHE'S AWFULLY FRANK
BECAUSE HER PERIOD'S OVER


WHAT?

UGH
ドス


HEY,
HIBI—

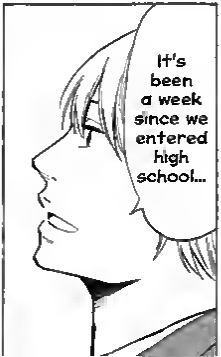
HEY—
GH
NO—
WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY START FLIRTING?

NO, I WANT HER TO STOP TOO.
GUGH
ドス
AGHH, COULD YOU JUST STOP?
THIS IS THE SACRED LITERATURE CLUB.

6: Role

The cherry blossoms have changed.

2



I'm gonna skip club today.
Why?
The book I want is coming out today.
Ahh...
Oh, yeah, it was on the news this morning...
本ブックセンター書士
白のズェラット
祖父江秋人

The first run has sold 300 thousand copies.

There was even a special feature in this morning's 'Mezamashi'.

And Akutagawa Prize winners sell about 50 to 60 thousand copies.

This is pretty amazing.

There's gonna be additional printings which include his debut work from over 30 years ago.

Hundreds have been printed, huh..

"The internationally acclaimed author Sobue Akihito"

"After 5 years, the full length novel 'The white Zouerat' comes out in Japan."

"The charm of Sobue's novels hasn't weakened in 30 years."

Is what it says.

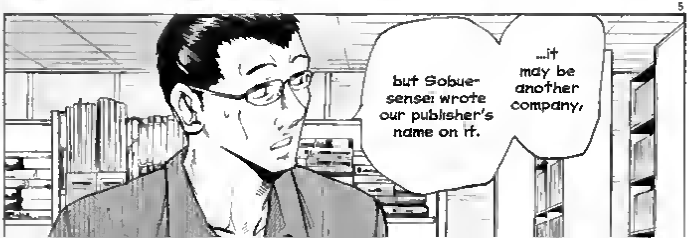
Haa-aah...

"Bookstores are seeing great success in Sobue's new work"...
It's at the top of everything, even the news sites.

What was?
When I brought it up with my contemporary in the manga editing department, she said it was unbelievable

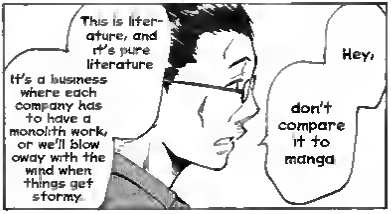
Well, this was selling remarkably well.
It's been a while since I've seen the business go so well.
I peeked into the bookstore before I went to work.

You're happy about another company's book selling well


but Sobue-sensei wrote our publisher's name on it.
...it may be another company,

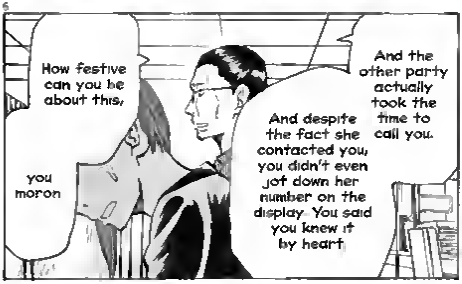
I mean, we had the Newcomer Award judges do this as well
Other companies are other companies,
No matter how much "The White Zouerat" sells, we don't have anything directly to do with it

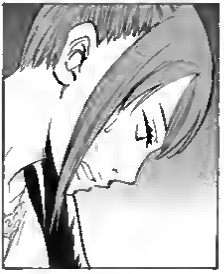
Also,

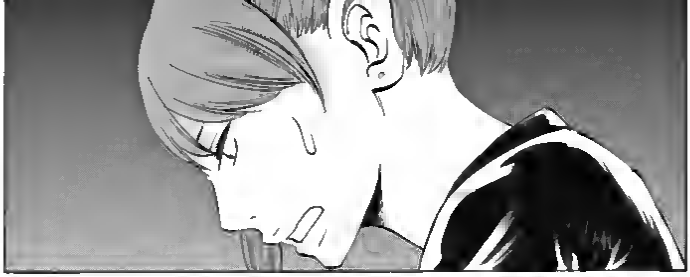

Hey,
don't compare it to manga
This is literature, and it's pure literature
It's a business where each company has to have a monolith work, or we'll blow away with the wind when things get stormy.

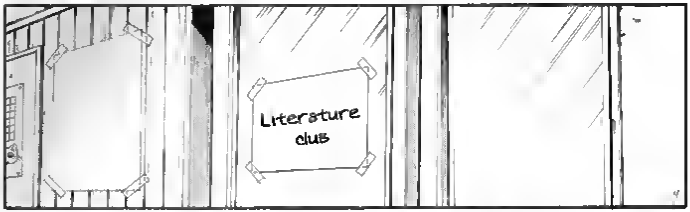
You failed to get Akui Hibiki's contact address.
Don't lash out at me because of it.

6


And the other party actually took the time to call you.
And despite the fact she contacted you, you didn't even jot down her number on the display. You said you knew it by heart.
How festive can you be about this,
you moron






Literature club

The book she wanted came out?

Hah hah.
And Takaya's skipping today
for no good reason.

And it seems Kayo-chan became the library representative, so she's over there today.
Ahh, oh yeah. Sobue Akihito's new work comes out today.

So it's just the two of us.

It's a good time to ask, so I will.

Ryo-uta-kun.

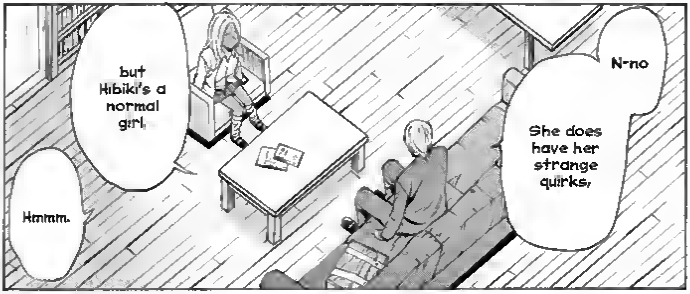
Aren't you going to buy 'The White Zouerat', Rika?

I'm planning on borrowing it after Hibiki's done.

What do you think of Hibiki-chan?

That girl is mad in the head.
There's just no way to phrase this.
All I can say is

I don't mean it in an erotic way.
What do you...


but Hibiki's a normal girl.
Hmmm.
N-no
She does have her strange quirks,

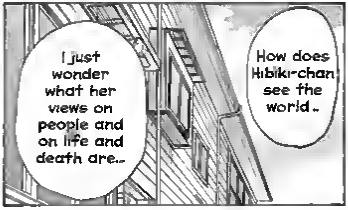
Huh?
Ryouta-kun, have you read the novels Hibiki-chan wrote before?

No, she didn't tell me.
Actually, did she tell you she was writing a novel?
You haven't ..

Hmm...

I want to read the novels she writes.
She'd probably write something amazing

People who like novels also tend to write some, myself included,
because you don't need any kind of special tool or technique for it


How does Hibiki-chan see the world..
I just wonder what her views on people and on life and death are...

It could make an unbelievable story...

Would a normal girl throw herself off the roof?
That seemed like an accident..

No, that's going too far.
Hibiki is actually a normal girl.

If it's an unbelievable story,
the readers would sympathize and be moved by it
And it could be greatly influential in their lives...
Hibiki
is not like that
and she became a novelist,
what would happen then?
...hypothetically,
if Hibiki had some kind of unbelievable talent

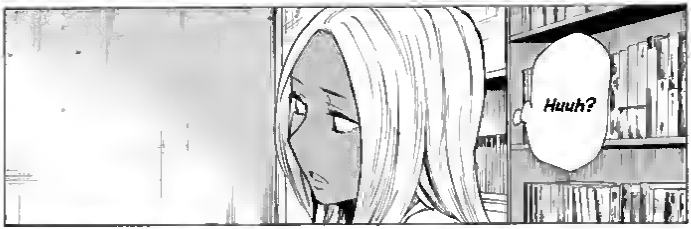
Akutagawa,
Kawabata, Mishima,
Dazai.
A lot of the famous novelists have committed suicide.

Murakami Ryu and Murakami Haruki are still alive and well, too.
That's true.
Tanizaki, Inoue, Sakaguchi...
It's not like everyone killed themselves though
...some amazing names just came out again.

But

I can see her struggling to reach a happy future.

If Hibiki ever became a novelist,



Going to university,

getting married,

getting a job,

having kids...

Going into a club,

fireworks and the beach in the summer,

making friends,

Christmas in winter...

I just want Hibiki to be happy through normal means.

It's strange that this is a business where the same person has been sitting at the top for 30 years.

Sobue-sensei's talent is definitely overwhelming

Even though he's 50 years old, his sense of values continues to be endorsed

And the number of authors imitating his style just continues to increase...

13

Which is exactly why

I want Akui Hibiki to drag him down from the top and change our current generation.

She contacted me.

She should have a considerable interest in being an author, too

If Akui Hibiki debuts as a novelist,

it will spark a revolution in the literary world.

I would like Hibiki to be happy as a normal girl.

響～小説家になる方法～1

Well, I don't think someone near me can become a pro novelist
It was impossible to begin with.

But I think Hibiki will understand soon.

She has her nice points
and she values books more than anything
That's a normal girl.

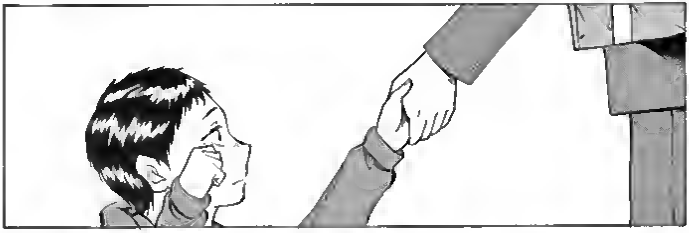
...and Hibiki just got into high school now
She's a little high strung like a cat

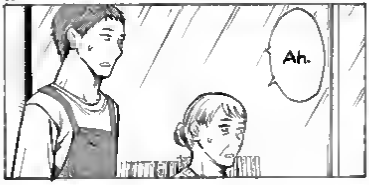
Will you put it in a bag?
I'm fine.

Thank you very much
祖父江秋人

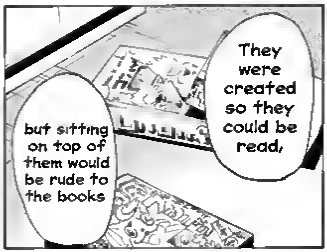
Sitting on the books...
How can someone raise him like that?
Should I warn him?
Don't. Parents like that will never quit yapping at you.
Wah.
どちゃ
Who-ops...
は
Ow..

You okay?





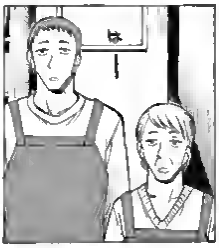
You can't sit on top of books like that.

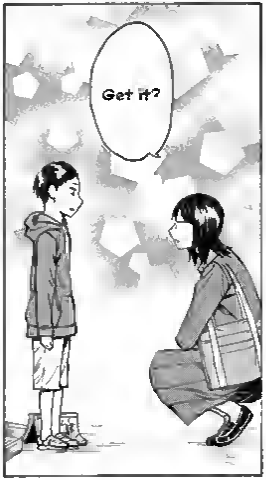

They were created so they could be read,
but sitting on top of them would be rude to the books

Every-thing has a role.
A book is to be read.

19

……

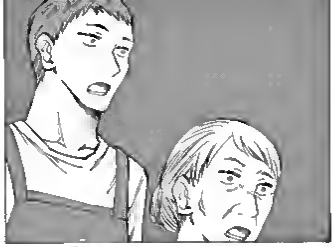



Get it?

Moro-
oon!
I don't get it at all, old hag!

Mo-
ro-

Ow...

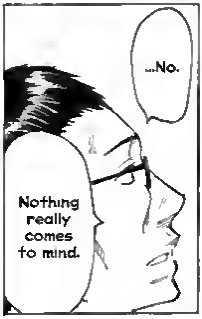


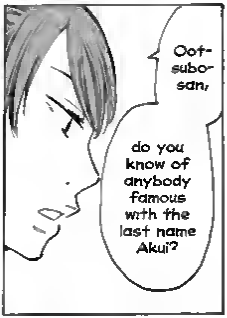
ドガッ
You can't hit some-one with

...
Don't mix thoughts and actions together.
That's her cammon excuse
...I can't imagine Hibiki-chan treasuring books too much.
She pushed the bookshelf down.

Hey, you okay?
Ah, she ran!
Waa-aahhh!

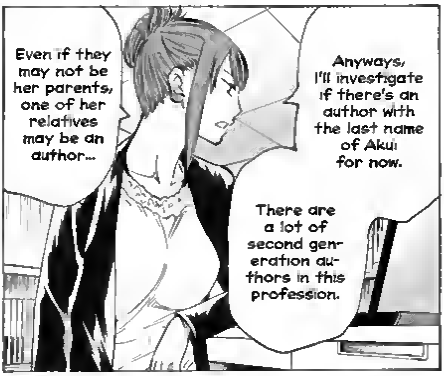
Why?
From how she sounded on the phone,
I think Akui Hibiki is probably her real name.


...No.
Nothing really comes to mind.


Oot-subo-san,
do you know of anybody famous with the last name Akui?

22

...she's grasping for straws here.


Even if they may not be her parents, one of her relatives may be an author...
Anyways, I'll investigate if there's an author with the last name of Akui for now.
There are a lot of second generation authors in this profession.

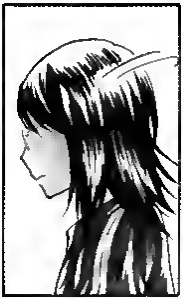
響～小説家になる方法～1

I know there's a lot of second generation authors,
but there are authors who'd use pen names and never release their real name,
and there's a lot of authors who don't have the same last name due to divorce ...
I know!

I know it's futile,
but
this is all I can...
Fine fine, good luck doing what you want.

Second generation, huh.
.....
...oh, yeah.
Sobue-sensei also had a daughter,
but she's still really young..

I believe she's in middle school or high school...



7: Source of ideas

Hey, Akagi, have you talked to Aku-san?

No, I tried talking to her, but...

Did she ignore you? Are you kidding me?

...man.

'Then Unkei understood why he was alive to this very day'

'...he finally realized that the Niou couldn't possibly be buried in the Meiji wood'

TN: Quote from the Sixth Night of Soseki's "Ten Nights of Dreams"

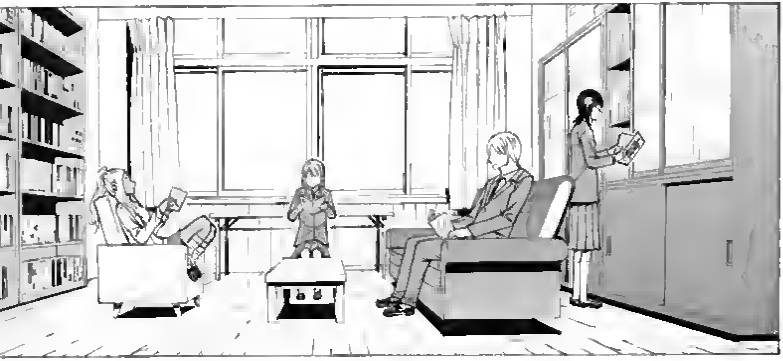
Hey sensei, I was taking a break now!

Fugh.

The Niou symbolized the necessity of continuing the Japanese tradition in the Meiji era.

Yeah, sure.

7: Source of ideas



Wah.

Can we do something!?

Uh.

It's already May,

and no new members ended up joining.

Ah...

Uh.. what?

What's wrong, Kayo-chan?

True, but..

Yeah, that's right. This is the literature club.

How do I put this.. it's like we're hanging out just to read some

We've just been reading books here every single day,

She wants to do something youthful, huh

Maybe we could do something more clubish...

Okay, let's make a club journal.

Journal?

A literature club journal. We're going to make one for the annual cultural festival and fulfill the club requirement.

Just make something random when you feel like it.

We have our members now, so why don't we make a new members issue?

Huu uhh?

Ah, Takaya. Good timing

We're making a club journal so just write something random in it.

Sounds nice! That sounds like a literature club!

Well, we're an actual literature club

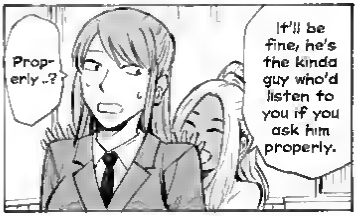
ギリ

No, no, everyone's doing it and it's going to be fun.
Uhh, am I the only one who wants to...

Wha.
Can't do anything about it. Kayo-chan wanted to make one and she won't listen to me.
So this isn't only gonna be for the school festival?

Huh?
Hey, go ask him, Kayo-chan.
You were the one who put the idea out first.

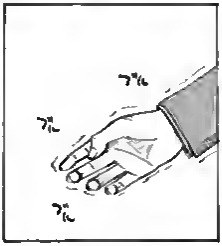
Like I care.
You guys do it yourselves.


Properly..?
It'll be fine, he's the kinda guy who'd listen to you if you ask him properly.

Huuuu uuhh?
Pes...
Tug his sleeve, look up at his eyes, and pester him.
No guy would ever refuse a girl who does that.

Ah..

Come on, come on.
I can't!
I really can't! He'll kill me!



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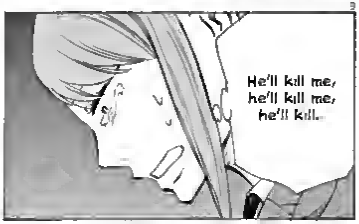
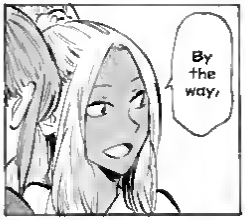

He'll kill me, he'll kill me, he'll kill..

Write..
ボロ ボロ

Ahah hahah hahah hahah hahah hah.
Beep
.....dammit!


By the way,

ガン
Hey, hey, you did your best there.

are you reading last year's club journal, Hibiki-chan?

10月/10

How is it, Hibiki-chan? You like it?
Is the 'ric@' person you?
Yep, you're right.
So? Interesting, right?
Yup.
Sure
There's a lot of club journals here.
Try reading everything for a reference.

.....

This is interesting!
Rrrrright?

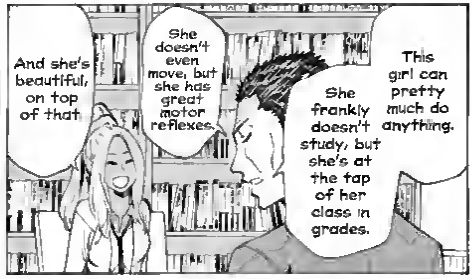
It has a really good pace
There aren't many lines, but it's easy to read...
I write on my phone, so of course it feels fast paced

12

So did you study how to write a novel?
Do you recommend a beginner's guide or -
Wellll, I never read stuff like that before

Honestly, the other novels feel like they're written by high school kids,
but only Rika-san's is on a different level..

Well, it's a talent.


And she's beautiful, on top of that.
She doesn't even move, but she has great motor reflexes.
She frankly doesn't study, but she's at the top of her class in grades.
This girl can pretty much do anything.

You can't do much about the abilities you were born with

and talent..

Like height,
beauty,

Okay.

It can be short. About 10 pages of lined paper.

Okay you guys, just write something random this week.

Damn it.

If you actually write something random, you're redoing it.

I can't stand being with you guys until I go home.

Damn, I'm gonna write it here.

Talent, huh

Okay

Rika-san said she writes these on her cell-phone...

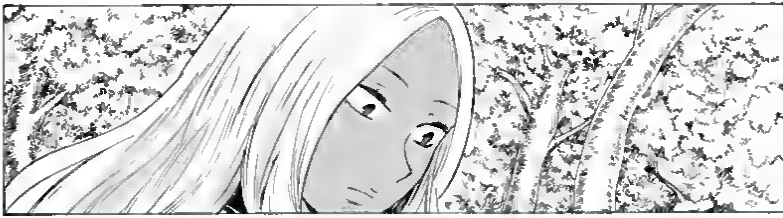
I haven't actually completed a novel before

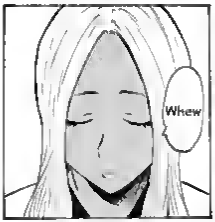
But maybe I actually have some talent as well

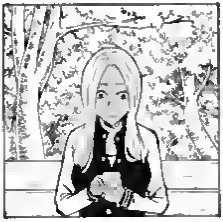
I should finish off that story about the vampire prince I stopped midway before...

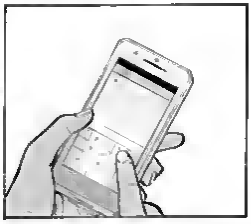
I'll try writing on my cellphone as well.

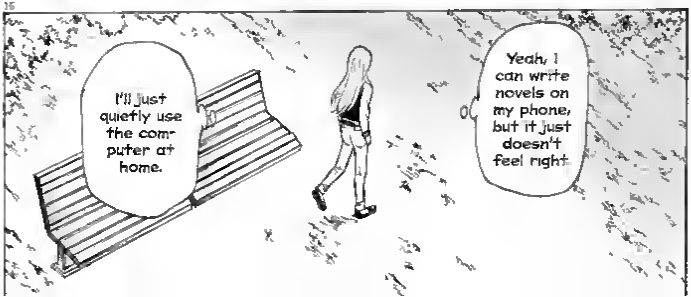
I might be able to write like Rika-san.




Whew

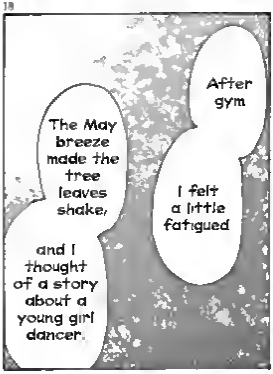





I'll just quietly use the computer at home.
Yeah, I can write novels on my phone, but it just doesn't feel right.

SEINAN
Thank you very much
コト

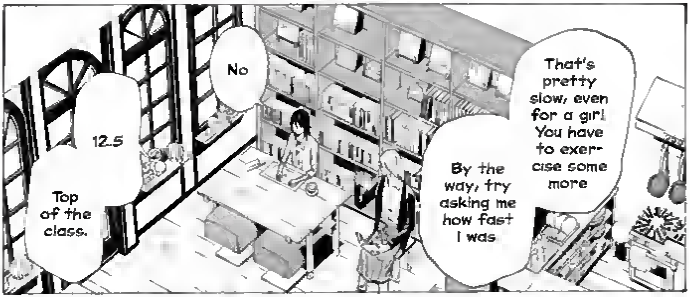
18


After gym
I felt a little fatigued
The May breeze made the tree leaves shake,
and I thought of a story about a young girl dancer.

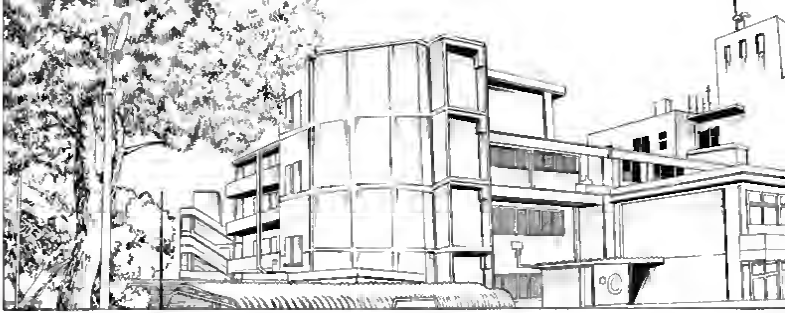
...so during Japanese class yesterday
I suddenly thought of something I wanted to write about.

I wonder where my inspiration comes from...

Hibiki, how many seconds did you run the 100 meter dash?
...about 16 seconds.


That's pretty slow, even for a girl. You have to exercise some more
By the way, try asking me how fast I was
No
12.5
Top of the class.

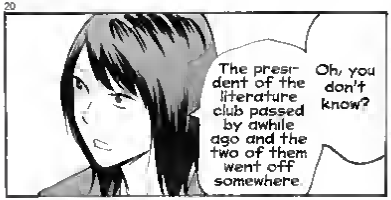
It's already evening.
Just eat dinner at my place. What do you want?
Fried rice.
Okay.



Hibiki's not there...

What's next, English?
Oh, it's time

By who?
She got taken somewhere...

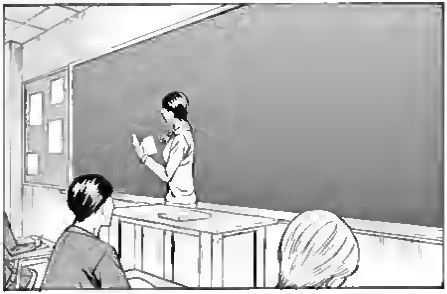

Oh, you don't know?
The president of the literature club passed by awhile ago and the two of them went off somewhere

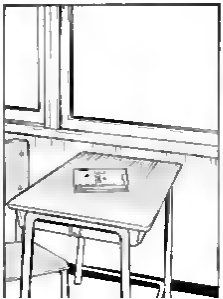
Ryouta-kun, do you know where Akui-san got taken to?
Huh?

I thought Akui-san didn't talk to anybody aside from you,
but she actually acts like a kouhai in front of her senpai.
Is that... so?

Rika-san came all the way here on her afternoon break...?
And she's not back even though the bell rang.

Back, back!
Tanaka, pass to the side!





Oh man, stop him!

I can take a shot!

It may be the common 'boy meets girl story' just told from a different point of view,

but the perspective is definitely new.

A sense for style is the most important thing...

The last scene where 'the boy and the girl are actually turtles' was a beautiful descriptive trick.

It was interesting.

Thanks

23

And your story about the dancing girl was super interesting too!

I was so surprised, I was lost for words!

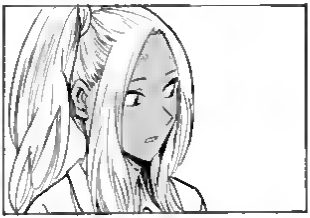
.....

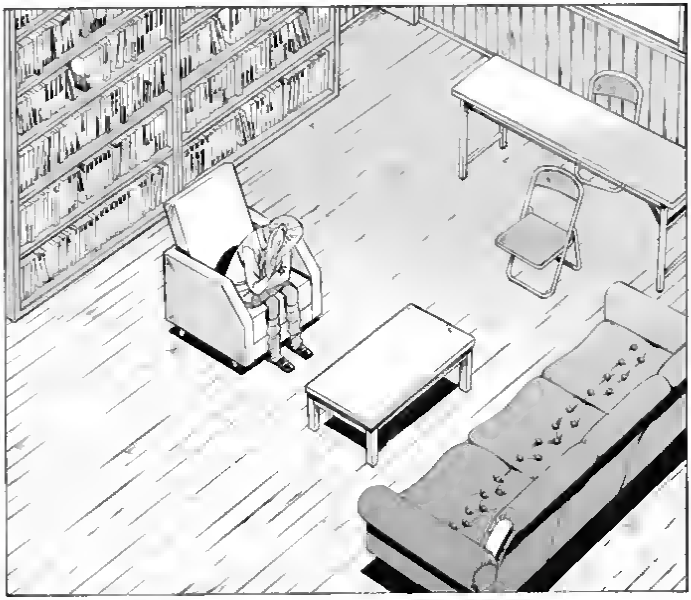
Sorry for calling you out in your afternoon break. I just wanted to read the novel you wrote as soon as I could, Hibiki-chan

Thanks, you can go back to class now.

I just want to...

Space out a bit.





「響～小説家になる方法～」第1集 ―完―

響～小説家になる方法～1

ビッグ コミックス

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